

# ACTIVE DUTY AIR FORCE BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE PILOT PROJECT, 1995

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Force is currently meeting the	ese national <i>Healthy People</i>	2000 goals: overwei	ght by body mass index, safety belt
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smoking (reported by 22.4% o	of ADAF members). A second	d major finding conce	rned alcohol abuse behaviors. The
prevalence of self-reported bir	nge drinking was 26%. Chro	onic drinking (4.1% vs	s. 3.0% nationally) and drinking and
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## **SUMMARY**

#### The Need

US Air Force (USAF) preventive medicine and public health policymakers need data to assess USAF-wide health promotion efforts, track progress toward meeting Air Force and national goals, and target interventions.

To help meet these needs, the Office for Prevention and Health Services Assessment (OPHSA) created a pilot project to develop an active duty Air Force (ADAF) behavioral risk factor surveillance system. This study is the first USAF-wide survey to provide behavioral risk factor data at the major command (MAJCOM) level. Specific, verifiable targets can be set using these data. The prevalence of risk factors and preventive health measures can be assessed at several levels (USAF, MAJCOM, within MAJCOM), and compared with findings from the United States (US) general population.

## The Survey

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) questionnaire is designed annually by the Centers for the Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for use in its state-based national BRFSS program. The CDC BRFSS is the largest continuously conducted health survey in the world, and gathers data from US adults on behaviors and practices that are related to the leading causes of death in the nation. This AF pilot project used the core section of the BRFSS instrument, with minor modifications. Using the same survey methods and questionnaire as in the national BRFSS allows the Air Force to build on the strengths of the CDC program and benchmark USAF findings to a large body of civilian data.

#### The Results

- One of the most significant findings of the survey was the lower than expected prevalence of current smoking. Current smoking was reported by 22.4% of ADAF members, which is nearly identical to the most current published CDC BRFSS findings from 1993 (22.5%), and below the level found in the 1992 Department of Defense (DoD) Worldwide Drug and Alcohol Survey (29%). These data are consistent with a continuing decline in current smoking among ADAF personnel.
- While the data on current smoking are encouraging, findings on alcohol abuse behaviors are not. Results for alcohol abuse behaviors were either notably higher than US findings or unacceptably high in the face of Air Force standards and policies. Prevalence of self-reported binge drinking was 26%, vs. 14% nationally. While results for chronic drinking (4.1% vs. 3.0% nationally) and drinking and driving (2.6% vs. 2.4% nationally) are not markedly different from US findings, the findings are disturbing.

- The data show the Air Force has met *Healthy People 2000* goals in the following areas:
  - ◊ overweight (by body mass index)
  - ♦ safety belt usage
  - ♦ child safety belt usage
  - ♦ child safety seat usage
  - ver had a mammogram and breast exam
  - ♦ ever had a Pap smear
  - ♦ had a Pap smear in last 3 years
- <u>Data indicated the Air Force has not met the Year 2000 goals for current smoking and periodic cholesterol testing</u>. Although findings on use of child bicycle helmets were encouraging, data were insufficient to determine if the *Healthy People 2000* goal had been met.
- Although prevalence estimates for screening tests were generally higher in ADAF members than in the general US population, this study identified an opportunity for improvement in periodic cholesterol testing. The *Healthy People 2000* goal is to increase the proportion of adults whose cholesterol has been tested in the last 5 years to at least 75%. Using self-reported data, the USAF estimate was 71.6%, with only three of eight commands having point estimates above 75%.

#### Recommendations

Behavioral risk factors in the active duty USAF population should be measured continuously, so that both healthful and deleterious trends can be seen over time. By using the CDC BRFSS survey instrument and methods, the Air Force can take advantage of the CDC's expertise and remain on the leading edge of behavioral risk factor surveillance. This approach will allow comparison of ADAF findings to a large body of civilian health data, and provide objective data to evaluate the impact of prevention programs.

OPHSA recommends that this project be the first in an annual series of surveys, inaugurating a full-fledged Active Duty Air Force Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

## INTRODUCTION

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a continuous, random-digit-dialed telephone survey of the US noninstitutionalized population aged ≥18 years. The survey is designed to determine the prevalence among adults of behaviors and practices - such as cigarette smoking, seat belt use, blood cholesterol screening, high blood pressure control, physical activity, weight control, alcohol use, and drinking and driving - that are related to the leading causes of death in the US. To maximize comparability, methods and questionnaires are standardized across participating states and over time. Currently the BRFSS is used by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three US territories, and is the largest continuously conducted telephone health survey in the world. In 1993 a total of 102,263 US residents participated in the survey. Results are used to assess risk for chronic diseases, identify trends in health-related behaviors, design and monitor health interventions, formulate policy and legislation for health initiatives, and measure progress toward achieving state and national health objectives.

Air Force preventive medicine and public health policymakers need data for use in targeting subpopulations, assessing the effectiveness of USAF-wide health promotion efforts, and tracking progress toward *Healthy People 2000* objectives. To help meet these needs, the Office for Prevention and Health Services Assessment (OPHSA) created a pilot project to develop an active duty Air Force behavioral risk factor surveillance system, using the CDC BRFSS as its model. The project was conducted through a collaboration between OPHSA, the University of Texas-Austin, and two CDC centers, the National Center for Environmental Health and the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Funding was provided by the Office of the USAF Surgeon General.

#### **METHODS**

## **Sampling**

In March 1995, OPHSA obtained a data file containing demographics (e.g., name and rank) and assignment information (e.g., current base duty assignment) from Headquarters, Air Force Military Personnel Center (HQ AFMPC) at Randolph AFB, Texas. The following personnel were excluded from participation in the study: basic military trainees (BMTs) and other ADAF members in training status, because of behavior restrictions such as a ban on smoking, alcohol use, and driving in BMTs; members of the Air Force Office of Special Investigation, whose duty location may be classified; active duty USAF members with a high likelihood of impending personnel actions involving geographic movement, such as permanent change of station or separation from active duty; and general officers (for protocol reasons). All other ADAF members worldwide were included in the AFMPC data file. This large data file was merged with a smaller file containing telephone contact data, such as dialing sequences for overseas bases, etc.

The data set was stratified by major command (MAJCOM), gender, and rank group. The decision to use MAJCOM as the major stratification variable was largely informed by the organization of public health and health promotion within the Air Force. The chain of command for public health and health promotion activities originates in the USAF Surgeon General's office and then flows through the MAJCOM headquarters to individual bases. As a result of this organizational structure, MAJCOM-specific data is highly useful in planning and monitoring prevention programs in the Air Force. Eight MAJCOMs were used (ACC, AFMC, AMC, AF SPACECOM, AFSOC, PACAF, USAFE, and AETC), and service members were categorized by the MAJCOM of their base of assignment. (Please see Appendix D for explanation of MAJCOM and other abbreviations used in this report.)

Categorization of ADAF personnel based on duty location MAJCOM, rather than MAJCOM of assignment, was done for two reasons. First, each MAJCOM's health promotion and disease prevention programs are actually carried out at base level, and all personnel assigned to a base fall within the sphere of influence and responsibility of the base's prevention activities. This is analogous to the catchment area concept used by military Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs). For example, an ADAF member administratively assigned to AFSOC but whose duty location was RAF Lakenheath UK would be categorized in this study as "USAFE," because the member would be in the catchment area of RAF Lakenheath, a USAFE base. The AFSOC member located at RAF Lakenheath cannot honestly be considered to be in the sphere of influence of the AFSOC health promotion and disease prevention activities, located at Hurlburt Field FL. Second, the behavior patterns of ADAF members are more likely to mirror those of coworkers at their duty location (e.g., RAF Lakenheath UK), rather than those of personnel at bases in their assigned MAJCOM (e.g., Hurlburt Field FL in case of AFSOC). This second point is especially true for personnel assigned to CONUS-based MAJCOMs (e.g., ACC, AETC), but who are actually located in OCONUS MAJCOMs (PACAF, USAFE).

In short, categorizing active duty USAF members by the MAJCOM of their duty location is the most appropriate method if the purpose of the study is to target health promotion and disease prevention resources.

Only ADAF members who were assigned to an Air Force military installation (e.g., base, air station) belonging to one of the above eight MAJCOMs were eligible for this survey. Three rank groups were used: junior enlisted (E1-E4); senior enlisted (E5-E9); and officers (O1-O6). Simple random sampling was then performed within each of the resulting 48 (8 MAJCOM x 2 gender x 3 rank) strata, with a predetermined number of members drawn from each stratum. Selection probabilities were unequal across the strata, because certain demographic groups, such as females, were sampled at rates in excess of their representation in the general population. This technique, known as oversampling, was used to ensure that adequate numbers of respondents would be available for subgroup analyses (e.g., prevalence of current smoking by gender). The total number of ADAF members chosen for the sample was 3,930. Please see Appendix A for a breakdown of the sample by MAJCOM.

Statistical consultants from Battelle Memorial Institute provided expert assistance in determining the number of active duty USAF members to be sampled from within each MAJCOM, gender, and rank group. This was done using nonlinear programming techniques, that solved for the number of ADAF members to be sampled in each stratum while simultaneously fixing a minimum number of subjects in each MAJCOM and each sampling stratum. The rationale was to maximize the opportunity for subgroup analyses (e.g., prevalence rates in female officers) if response rates were high and adequate numbers of subjects were interviewed.

## **Questionnaire**

The survey instrument was a questionnaire designed by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFS) Branch of the CDC's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. This questionnaire is the backbone of the state-based Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, coordinated at the national level by the CDC. The questionnaire development policy of the CDC BRFS Branch is to adopt, wherever feasible, questions used in national surveys such as the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) and the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). Only questions from the core section were asked. A small number of questions were inappropriate for active duty military members (e.g., questions about availability of medical insurance, whether employed full time) and were not asked, and one question was added on recent TDY assignment. Appendix A contains detailed information on these minor modifications to the CDC BRFSS instrument. OPHSA obtained official clearance from HQ AFMPC to conduct an Air Force wide survey using the CDC BRFSS instrument.

The CDC BRFSS instrument is dynamic, with the questions that appear changing from year to year. It consists of: a set of fixed core questions, asked every year; rotating core questions, asked on odd or even numbered years; modules, that are topical blocks of questions states may ask to meet their surveillance needs; and state-added questions, that states design and analyze on their own. The 1995 core questions, used in the present study, did not contain questions on physical activity and weight control, whereas the 1996 instrument will. Appendix B contains the 1995 core questionnaire. Through expert panels and annual meetings with state BRFSS coordinators, the CDC is constantly refining and adapting the instrument to meet evolving state and national needs.

## Data Collection, Processing, and Analysis

Preselected active duty USAF members were contacted by telephone during the workday at their worldwide duty locations and asked to participate in the survey after being assured their responses would be kept confidential. OPHSA retained a professional telesurvey organization, the Office of Survey Research (OSR) of the University of Texas-Austin, to accomplish the data collection using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). OSR has conducted all telephone interviewing for the Texas BRFSS since the state joined the CDC program in 1986. The majority of the telephone interviews were conducted during July and August 1995. A CATI data file without personal identifying information was then delivered to OPHSA, which forwarded it to the CDC for analysis. The total number of respondents in this data set was 1,931.

Consistent with CDC BRFSS survey methods, the civilian telesurvey personnel made numerous attempts to contact each ADAF member. The initial telephone call often directly reached the member, but in many cases this call reached an office secretary, who often provided valuable information on the member's whereabouts if he or she had moved, left for TDY travel, etc. Secretaries and other office members frequently passed messages to members of the sample. In these cases, where the member was not available at the initial call, a message was left to contact UT-Austin by collect call. In cases where the member was contacted but indicated he or she was too busy to complete the survey at that time, "call backs" were scheduled at the member's convenience. In all, 5 attempts were made to contact each member.

After the completion of all telephone interviews, the data set with all responses was checked using a computer software program provided by CDC. In some cases, this program identified "out of range" values requiring verification. When this occurred, members were contacted again and asked to confirm their original responses.

Post-stratification weighting was used to correct for sampling and non-sampling sources of error, as well as to adjust for differences in gender and rank distribution between the sample and MAJCOM and USAF populations. Sources of error included unequal selection probabilities across sampling strata and differential rates of non-response across sampling strata. The post-stratification variable used was a three-way classification variable denoting MAJCOM, rank group (junior enlisted, senior enlisted, and officers) and gender. Population counts, using data current at the time of survey, were obtained from the Human Resources Directorate, Armstrong Laboratory (Brooks AFB, Texas) and used to compute post-stratification weights as described by Aday. A major benefit of the use of MAJCOM, rank, and gender in post-stratification is that this procedure corrects for important differences between the demographic makeup of the sample vs. the makeup of the total ADAF population. All prevalence estimates presented in this report are weighted.

CDC analyzed the data using SESUDAAN, a statistical package for analyzing complex sample-survey data. SESUDAAN enables computation of standard errors and prevalence estimates for weighted survey data.<sup>2</sup> All confidence intervals are 2-sided, with an  $\alpha$  level set at .05. This assured a 95% likelihood that the true prevalence of each risk factor was within the upper and lower limits of the confidence interval.

The most recently published data from CDC's BRFSS program are for 1993, and provide state-based prevalence estimates and 95% confidence intervals for each risk factor. These prevalence estimates are weighted averages for each state, computed using response rate data and current state population figures from the US Bureau of the Census. CDC uses the median value of the weighted averages of the 50 US states and the District of Columbia as a "national" prevalence estimate. The term, "US median," as used in this report, refers to this median of the 50 states' weighted averages. In this report, MAJCOM and USAF estimates are compared with results from the 1993 CDC BRFSS, 3 which are the most current published data available.

Over 30 behavioral risk factors and clinical preventive services were assessed by the CDC BRFSS instrument. These are defined and described below.

## **Definitions of Risk Factors and Preventive Health Measures**

General health status	reported general health status is very good or excellent
Physical health not good	reported mean number of days in past 30 days physical health was not good
Mental health not good	reported mean number of days in past 30 days mental health was not good
Activities limited	reported mean number of days in past 30 days activities were limited due to poor physical or mental health
Hypertension awareness	reported ever told blood pressure high by a health professional
Hypertension screening	reported blood pressure checked within the past 2 years
Cholesterol awareness	reported ever told cholesterol high by a health professional
Cholesterol screening	<ul><li>a) reported ever had cholesterol checked</li><li>b) reported had cholesterol checked within the past 5 years</li></ul>
Diabetes awareness	reported ever told have diabetes by a health professional
Lack of safety belt usage	<ul><li>a) reported sometimes, seldom, or never use safety belts</li><li>b) reported does not always wear a safety belt</li></ul>
Child safety belt	reported oldest child aged 5-14 always or nearly always uses safety belt
Child safety seat	reported oldest child aged 4 or under always or nearly always uses safety seat
Use of child bicycle helmets	reported oldest child aged 5-14 always or nearly always uses helmet when riding bicycle
Smoke detectors	reported checked all smoke alarms in home within the past year
Current smokers	reported ever smoked 100 cigarettes and a current smoker
Ever smoked	reported smoked at least 100 cigarettes in lifetime
Current drinkers	reported had alcoholic beverages during the past month

Binge drinking	reported had 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion during the past month
Chronic drinking	reported 60 or more drinks during past month
Drinking and driving	reported driving after having too much to drink, one or more times during past month
Rectal exam	reported had rectal exam within past year, aged 40 and older
Overweight: by body mass index	body mass index (from reported height and weight) ≥27.8 for males and 27.3 for females
Overweight: by median	reported weight for height greater than 120% of the median, using 1959 Metropolitan Life Insurance Company tables
AIDS: encourage teen condom use	would encourage sexually active teenagers to use a condom
AIDS: condom effectiveness	believes condoms are very effective in preventing AIDS
AIDS blood test	reported ever had blood tested for AIDS virus infection
Chances of getting AIDS	believes personal chances of getting AIDS virus are high
Mammogram-females	a) reported ever had a mammogram, aged 18 and older b) reported ever had a mammogram, aged 40 and older
Breast exam-females	<ul><li>a) reported ever had a breast exam by a health professional, aged 18 and older</li><li>b) reported ever had a breast exam by a health professional, aged 40 and older</li></ul>
Mammogram and breast exam-females	reported ever had a mammogram and a breast exam, aged 40 and older
Pap smear	<ul><li>a) reported ever had a Pap smear</li><li>b) reported ever had a Pap smear, women with intact uterine cervix</li><li>c) reported had Pap smear within last 3 years, women with intact uterine cervix</li></ul>

These risk factors and preventive health measures directly measure progress toward the following *Healthy People 2000* goals:<sup>4</sup>

• Raise the percentage of adults who have had their cholesterol checked within the last 5 years to at least 75%

- Decrease the proportion of adults and children (aged 5-14) who do not always use a safety belt to less than 15%
- For children aged 4 and under, increase the use of child safety seats to at least 95%
- Increase to at least 50% the percentage of bicyclists (of any age) who use helmets when riding
- Lower the prevalence of smoking among adults to 20% or lower (goal written specifically for military populations)
- Lower the percentage of adults whose body mass index is  $\geq$ 27.8 (males) or  $\geq$ 27.3 (females) to no greater than 20%
- Increase to at least 80% the proportion of women aged 40 and older who have ever had a mammogram and a clinical breast exam
- Increase the percentages of women with an intact uterine cervix who have: ever had a Pap smear to at least 95%; and who have had a Pap smear within the last 3 years to at least 85%

## **RESULTS**

#### **Response Rates**

Widely divergent results were obtained using two popular methods for calculating response rates (see Appendix A). One formula, using the "upper bound" method, gave a response rate of 98%, while the other formula gave a rate of 68%. Although several methods are available to calculate response rates for surveys, it is difficult to apply some of them to this survey for several reasons. First, a large proportion of the active duty Air Force population is highly mobile, characterized by frequent TDY travel and deployments. The algorithm used by HQ AFMPC to choose the sampling frame could not predict sudden personnel movements such as these. Many individuals who would simply be designated as "non-responders" by traditional response rate methods were, in fact, never contacted because they were not available to speak to the UT-Austin OSR staff during the interview period. Second, despite the fact that the sampling method attempted to minimize the impact of more predictable forms of geographic personnel movement, such as PCS moves, a substantial number of ADAF members - particularly in USAFE - had moved from their duty stations between the time the sample was drawn (March 1995) and the interviewing (July/August 1995). Frequent deployments and base closures in Europe near the interviewing period led to large scale movements of ADAF personnel, in some cases involving entire bases. A completely unpredictable factor in CONUS was the advent of a major hurricane striking Hurlburt Field during the interview period, making it difficult to contact AFSOC personnel.

As evidenced by the 98% response rate using the "upper bound" formula, the rate of non-response once an ADAF member was successfully contacted was actually quite low. <u>Staff interviewers at OSR characterized the ADAF survey participants as very cooperative once the purpose of the survey and the confidential nature of responses were explained.</u> Differential response rates across sampling strata were accounted for in the data analysis.

Although UT-Austin staff successfully interviewed only 49% of the members of the sample, the demographic makeup of the respondents did not differ meaningfully from the sample, with the exception that a slightly lower percentage of respondents were from USAFE. Approximately 7% of respondents were from USAFE, while 11% of the sample members were from USAFE. No other notable differences were found in MAJCOM, gender, or rank distributions.

Appendix A provides response rates for each MAJCOM, using the two formulas noted above, as well as a detailed breakdown of reasons for non-response by command. Appendix C contains extensive demographic breakdowns of the USAF total population, survey sample, and survey respondents.

## **Detailed Survey Findings**

#### **Health Status**

#### General Health Status

The percentage of ADAF members rating their own health as "very good" or "excellent" ranged from 71.0% (USAFE) to 78.5% (AETC), with an Air Force wide result of 75.6% (Tables 1 and 10). No comparison data from the 1993 state-based BRFSS are available.

Tables 6 and 8 show gender-specific estimates of general health status. No marked differences are noted, although in some commands the male and female point estimates differ somewhat.

## Physical Health

Air Force members reported an average of 1.3 days over the last month in which their physical health was "not good" (Tables 1 and 10). MAJCOM results ranged from 0.9 days (AETC) to 1.7 days (USAFE). By way of comparison, CDC 1993 BRFSS state results ranged from 1.6 to 4.1 days, with a US median of 2.9 days.

#### Mental Health

Air Force wide, the reported mean number of days in which mental health was "not good" over the last month was 2.3 (Tables 1 and 10). MAJCOM results ranged from 2.0 days (AFMC) to 2.8 days (USAFE). The 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 1.4 to 4.0 days, with a US median of 2.8 days.

## **Activity Limitations**

To assess the impact of self-reported poor physical and mental health, survey participants were also asked how many days over the last month their activities were limited by health problems. MAJCOM results ranged from 1.3 days (AMC) to 3.0 days (AFMC), with a USAF wide result of 1.8 days (Tables 1 and 10). For comparison, 1993 CDC BRFSS state results ranged from 0.7 to 2.7 days, with a US median of 1.6 days.

## **Hypertension Awareness and Screening**

The percentage of ADAF members reporting they had ever been told by a health professional that they had high blood pressure was 10.5%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 9.6% (ACC) to 13.0% (USAFE) (Tables 2 and 11). CDC 1993 BRFSS results ranged from 16.8% to 29.8%, with a US median of 21.7%.

Air Force wide, the proportion reporting that their blood pressure had been checked in the last 2 years was 98.2%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 96.8% (ACC) to 100% (USAFE) (Tables 2 and 11). Comparison data from the 1993 CDC BRFSS showed a range from 90.3% to 96.5%, with a US median of 93.5%.

Tables 6 and 8 show no apparent gender differences in the prevalence of hypertension awareness or screening.

## **Cholesterol Awareness and Screening**

The percentage of respondents reporting they were ever told by a health professional that their cholesterol level was high ranged from 14.2% (AETC and USAFE) to 20.9% (AFSOC), with an Air Force wide prevalence of 16.6% (Tables 2 and 11). In 1993, CDC BRFSS results ranged from 11.9% to 23.3%, with a US median of 19.2%.

Questions were also asked about cholesterol screening tests. Air Force wide, the proportion reporting they had ever had their cholesterol tested was 75.0%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 67.0% (ACC) to 82.6% (AMC) (Tables 2 and 11). State based CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 59.5% to 75.6%, with a US median of 67.9%.

A slightly lower proportion of ADAF members, 71.6%, reported having their cholesterol checked within the last 5 years (Tables 2 and 11). MAJCOM results ranged from 62.7% to 80.8%. 1993 CDC BRFSS data ranged from 57.0% to 73.4%, with a US median of 65.0%. Since the *Healthy People 2000* goal for the proportion having cholesterol testing every 5 years is  $\geq$ 75%, the Air Force in the aggregate appears to be fairly close to meeting the Year 2000 goal. Two

MAJCOMs, AFMC and AMC, have point estimates (80.3% and 80.8%) that exceed the 75% goal, but the 95% confidence intervals around these estimates include 75.0%. From a statistical perspective, these data are insufficient to say whether the Air Force has met this Year 2000 goal.

Tables 6 and 8 show no pattern of gender differences in cholesterol screening.

#### **Diabetes Awareness**

Overall, a very small proportion (0.3%) of USAF active duty members reported ever being told by a health professional that they have diabetes (Tables 2 and 11). MAJCOM results ranged from 0% (ACC, AFSOC, PACAF, USAFE) to 1.3% (AFMC). CDC 1993 BRFSS results ranged from 2.7% to 6.3%, with a US median of 4.5%.

No substantial gender differences in diabetes awareness are seen in Tables 6 and 8.

## Safety Belt Usage

Air Force wide, 1.6% of respondents reported that they used safety belts only sometimes, seldom, or never (Tables 2 and 11). (This means that the vast majority use seat belts always or nearly always.) MAJCOM results ranged from 0% (USAFE) to 3.2% (AMC). CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 3.9% to 52.0%, with a US median of 20.8%.

Using a more liberal definition of seat belt nonusage - a report of not always wearing a safety belt - 9.8% of ADAF members would be classified as nonusers (Tables 2 and 11). With this definition, MAJCOM results ranged from 6.9% (USAFE) to 11.7% (AFSOC). CDC 1993 BRFSS results ranged from 10.1% to 74.8%, with a US median of 36.3%. The *Healthy People* 2000 goal associated with this risk factor is a prevalence of seat belt nonusage less than 15%. Since the confidence interval for the Air Force wide estimate does not include 15.0%, the Air Force has met this Year 2000 goal.

Tables 6 and 8 show no apparent gender differences in lack of seat belt usage.

## Child Safety Belt, Safety Seat, and Bicycle Helmet Use

When ADAF members were asked about use of safety belts for their children aged 5-14, 97.4% reported that the belts were always or almost always used. MAJCOM results ranged 94.4% (AETC) to 100% (PACAF and USAFE) (Tables 4 and 13). No results from the 1993 CDC BRFSS were available for comparison. The *Healthy People 2000* goal is for at least 85% of children and adults to use safety belts. Since the 95% confidence interval around the USAF estimate excludes 85.0%, the Air Force has met this Year 2000 goal.

Parents of children aged 4 and under were asked about use of child safety seats. Air Force wide, 99.3% indicated that they used child safety seats always or nearly always, with MAJCOM results ranging from 97.3% (PACAF) to 100% (AETC, AFMC, and USAFE) (Tables 4 and 13). The Year 2000 national goal is to increase use of safety seats in children aged 4 and under to at least 95%. The 95% confidence interval around the USAF estimate excludes 95.0%, so the Air Force has met this *Healthy People 2000* goal.

Parents of children aged 5-14 who ride bicycles were asked about their children's use of bicycle helmets. Approximately half - 55.3% - reported their child always or nearly always uses a helmet when riding a bicycle. MAJCOM results ranged from 39.6% (AFSOC) to 64.7% (AF SPACECOM) (Tables 4 and 13). Healthy People 2000 has a goal of increasing bicycle helmet use to at least 50%, and the 95% confidence interval around the Air Force estimate overlaps with 50.0%. From a statistical perspective, these data are insufficient to say whether the Air Force has met this Year 2000 goal. The 95% confidence interval for AF SPACECOM, however, indicates that this MAJCOM has met the Healthy People 2000 goal.

#### **Smoking**

#### Ever Smoked

ADAF survey participants were asked about ever smoking, which is defined by the CDC as having smoked 100 cigarettes in a lifetime. The prevalence of ever smoking was 39.7%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 34.2% (AFMC) to 45.0% (ACC) (Tables 2 and 12). CDC 1993 BRFSS results ranged from 30.9% to 57.6%, with a US median of 49.0%.

## **Current Smokers**

Current smoking is defined by the CDC as having ever smoked 100 cigarettes and smoking now. This definition includes regular and irregular smokers. Overall, 22.4% of ADAF members reported current smoking, with MAJCOM results ranging from 15.1% (AFMC) to 29.0% (ACC) (Tables 2 and 12). 1993 state based BRFSS results ranged from 14.5% to 30.1%, with a US median of 22.5%. The *Healthy People 2000* goal for cigarette smoking - no more than 20% in military populations - appears to be within sight at the Air Force level. Moreover, MAJCOM results show that AFMC is very close to meeting the Year 2000 goal, with the AFMC 95% confidence interval almost excluding 20.0%.

Tables 6 and 8 do not generally show a strong pattern of gender difference in current smoking. However, in ACC, the command with the highest smoking prevalence, a substantially larger percentage of males report current smoking as compared with females. There is also a striking preponderance of male smokers noted in USAFE, where the percentage of female smokers is very low.

## **Alcohol Consumption**

#### **Current Drinkers**

The percentage of survey participants who reported current drinking (consumed alcohol in last 30 days) ranged from 68.4% (AETC) to 77.8% (USAFE), with a USAF prevalence of 72.3% (Tables 3 and 12). By way of comparison, the 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 27.4% to 69.6%, with a US median of 51.6%.

## Binge Drinking

The CDC defines binge drinking as consuming 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion during the past month. The proportion of ADAF reporting binge drinking was 26.2%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 20.3% (AETC) to 34.5% (AFSOC) (Tables 3 and 12). State based results from the 1993 CDC BRFSS ranged from 4.2% to 22.8%, with a US median of 14.2%.

Tables 7 and 9 show a consistent gender pattern in binge drinking, with the prevalence for males substantially higher than for females.

## Chronic Drinking

Chronic drinking (60 or more drinks during the past month) was reported by 4.1% of active duty Air Force members (Tables 3 and 12). MAJCOM results ranged from 2.3% (AF SPACECOM) to 7.9% (USAFE). 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 1.4% to 6.1%, with a US median of 3.0%.

Tables 7 and 9 show chronic drinking is noticeably more prevalent in males.

## **Drinking** and **Driving**

When asked if they had driven in the last month after having too much to drink, 2.6% of ADAF members reported they had, with MAJCOM results ranging from 0.7% (AFMC) to 4.4% (ACC and AFSOC) (Tables 3 and 12). State based 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 0.8% to 5.3%, with a US median of 2.4%.

Tables 7 and 9 do not demonstrate a consistent gender pattern for drinking and driving.

## Overweight

## By Body Mass Index

Using self-reported height and weight, body mass index (weight in kg divided by the square of height in meters) was computed for each respondent. The percentage of active duty USAF members meeting the criteria for overweight was 13.4%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 9.9% (AETC) to 17.6% (AFMC) (Tables 3 and 12). CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 20.2% to 31.7%, with a US median of 25.5%. The *Healthy People 2000* goal for obesity (by body mass index) is ≤20%, and the Air Force has met this goal, since the 95% confidence interval excludes 20.0%.

## By Median

Defining overweight using life insurance actuarial data and self-reported height and weight, the prevalence of overweight among ADAF members was 19.1% (Tables 3 and 12). MAJCOM results ranged from 14.2% (AETC) to 25.4% (AFMC). State based CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 24.0% to 36.3%, with a US median of 30.1%.

Tables 7 and 9 show that in almost every MAJCOM overweight is much more common in males.

#### **AIDS**

#### Encourage Teen Condom Use

The percentage of active duty USAF members reporting they would encourage a sexually active teenager to use condoms was 91.7%, with MAJCOM results ranging from 89.9% (AFMC) to 96.0% (USAFE) (Tables 3 and 12). CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 85.7% to 94.9%, with a US median of 91.8%.

## Condom Effectiveness

Air Force wide, 38.6% of ADAF members believed that condoms were very effective in preventing transmission of the AIDS virus (Tables 3 and 12). MAJCOM results ranged from 35.6% (AMC) to 48.4% (USAFE). 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 17.7% to 39.2%, with a US median of 25.5%.

#### AIDS Blood Test

Nearly all ADAF personnel - 96.4% - reported that they had ever had their blood tested for the virus that causes AIDS. MAJCOM results were also consistently high, ranging from 94.8% (AMC) to 99.6% (PACAF) (Tables 3 and 12). State based 1993 CDC BRFSS results were markedly lower, ranging from 15.1% to 39.5%, with a US median of 25.0%.

## Chances of Getting AIDS

When asked about their personal risk of getting AIDS, 2.2% of active duty Air Force members reported their risk was high (Tables 3 and 12). MAJCOM results ranged from 0.9% (AFSOC) to 3.1% (AETC). CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 0.8% to 3.8%, with a US median of 2.1%.

## Cancer Screening and Women's Health

#### Rectal Exam

When male and female ADAF members aged 40 and older were asked if they ever had a digital rectal exam, 90.6% indicated they had, with MAJCOM results ranging from 80.1% (PACAF) to 100% (USAFE) (Tables 5 and 14). CDC 1993 BRFSS results ranged from 24.5% to 51.6%, with a US median of 39.8%.

Tables 7 and 9 do not show any clear gender difference in the prevalence of rectal exams.

## Mammogram-Females

Female active duty Air Force members were asked if they ever had a mammogram. Among ADAF women aged 18 and older, 29.9% reported they had, with MAJCOM results ranging from 20.6% (ACC) to 36.7% (AMC) (Tables 5 and 14). Among women aged 40 and older, 94.4% indicated they had, although MAJCOM-specific results could not be reliably computed due to small numbers of women aged 40 and older in each of the particular commands. 1993 BRFSS results for women aged 18 and older ranged from 46.8% to 59.0%, with a US median of 39.8%. For women aged 40 and older, 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 68.5% to 85.7%, with a US median of 77.9%.

#### **Breast Exam-Females**

Female ADAF members were asked if they ever had a clinical breast examination. Among active duty women aged 18 and older, 95.1% reported they had, with MAJCOM results ranging from 87.4% (PACAF) to 100% (AF SPACECOM, AFSOC, USAFE) (Tables 5 and 14). Among women aged 40 and older, 98.6% reported they had. MAJCOM-specific results could not be reliably computed due to small numbers of women aged 40 and older in each of the particular commands (Tables 5 and 14). 1993 CDC BRFSS results for women aged 18 and older ranged from 82.6% to 94.3%, with a US median of 89.5%. For women aged 40 and older, state based CDC BRFSS results from 1993 ranged from 81.6% to 95.0%, with a US median of 89.8%.

## Mammogram and Breast Exam-Females

ADAF women aged 40 and older were asked if they ever had a mammogram and a clinical breast exam. Air Force wide, 93.1% indicated they had, while MAJCOM-specific results could not be reliably computed due to small numbers of women aged 40 and older in each of the particular commands. 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 63.6% to 81.8%, with a US median of 73.4%. The *Healthy People 2000* goal for women aged 40 and older ever having a mammogram and a breast exam is ≥80%. Since the 95% confidence interval around the Air Force estimate excludes 80.0%, the Air Force has met this Year 2000 goal.

## Pap Smear

All active duty USAF women were asked if they ever had a Pap smear. Essentially all - 98.6% - indicated they had, with MAJCOM results ranging from 94.3% (AFMC) to 100% (AF SPACECOM, AFSOC, and USAFE) (Tables 5 and 14). State based results from the 1993 CDC BRFSS ranged from 85.4% to 96.4%, with a US median of 93.4%.

Active duty women with an intact uterine cervix were asked if they ever had a Pap smear. Again, nearly all - 98.8% - reported they had (Tables 5 and 14). MAJCOM results ranged from 94.1% (AFMC) to 100% (AF SPACECOM, AFSOC, PACAF, and USAFE). 1993 CDC BRFSS results ranged from 84.3% to 96.6%, with a US median of 93.7%. The *Healthy People 2000* goal for women with an intact uterine cervix ever having a Pap smear is ≥95%. Since the 95% confidence interval around the USAF estimate excludes 95.0%, the Air Force has met this Year 2000 goal.

Finally, ADAF women with an intact uterine cervix were asked if they had a Pap smear within the last 3 years. Overall, 97.8% reported they had, with MAJCOM results ranging from 93.1% (AFMC) to 100% (AFSOC) (Tables 5 and 14). No results from the 1993 CDC BRFSS were available for comparison. The *Healthy People 2000* goal for women with an intact uterine cervix having a Pap smear within the last 3 years is ≥85%. Since the 95% confidence interval around the ADAF estimate excludes 85.0%, the Air Force has also met this Year 2000 goal.

## DISCUSSION

This pilot project represents the first effort toward worldwide behavioral risk factor surveillance among active duty Air Force members, using the same methods and survey instrument as the CDC BRFSS. The self-reported data generally indicate very high prevalence of preventive health measures and low prevalence of behavioral risk factors. However, the data identify numerous opportunities for targeted public health intervention and point to the need for continued surveillance at the MAJCOM and USAF levels to track progress toward national and Air Force goals.

Since ADAF members were categorized by the MAJCOM of their duty location (rather than MAJCOM of assignment), findings from different MAJCOMs should be compared to each other cautiously and only with this fact in mind. The purpose of this study was not to compare MAJCOMs to each other, but to provide data necessary for each MAJCOM to target its health promotion and disease prevention resources.

## **Data Strengths**

A major strength of the survey is that it was conducted using the same questionnaire and the same mode of administration (telephone interview) as in the CDC BRFSS program. The organization contracted to conduct the interviews has performed this function for the Texas state BRFSS for nearly 10 years. Given the parallel methods, it seems fair to directly compare these data with those obtained in the CDC BRFSS as well as to use data to assess progress toward national Year 2000 goals, as the US Public Health Service does with CDC BRFSS data.

## **Major Findings**

A very large number of comparisons are possible using these data: among MAJCOMs; within MAJCOMs; between USAF and CDC BRFSS estimates; and between USAF estimates and national Year 2000 goals. When these dozens of comparisons are examined, several important findings emerge:

- Data generally indicate good health status across all MAJCOMs, but it is not at all reassuring that days of poor mental health per month and days of limited activity per month differ so little from US median values.
- It is somewhat surprising that the percentage of ADAF personnel rating their health status as very good or excellent is not higher.
- Prevalence of behavioral risk factors was in general noticeably lower among ADAF, with the exception of self-reported elevated cholesterol, cigarette smoking, and alcohol abuse behaviors.
- Prevalence of current smoking was remarkable in that the ADAF estimate was nearly identical to the 1993 CDC BRFSS US median. This is counter to the widely held view that current smoking is more prevalent in the active duty Air Force population.
- Preventive health measures (screening tests) were in general appreciably more prevalent among active duty USAF.

## **Cigarette Smoking**

Perhaps one of the most significant findings of the survey was the declining current smoking prevalence. While the 22.4% Air Force wide result may surprise some, it actually appears quite plausible when viewed in a larger context. The 1992 DoD Worldwide Drug and Alcohol Survey found the prevalence of current smoking was 29.2% among ADAF personnel. The DoD survey used a slightly different definition of current smoking, and had a slightly different sample, but these data are consistent with a substantial decline in current smoking in the active duty Air Force population between 1992 and 1995. During this same period, the active duty Air Force population was reduced in size by nearly 26% (from approximately 486,000 to 360,000), and it has been proposed that a large percentage of those individuals leaving active duty during this time were current smokers. The findings on ever smoking from the current survey support this view.

USAF prevalence of ever smoking was 39.7%, nearly 10% lower than the CDC BRFSS US median estimate of 49.0%. If the decline in current smoking were due to a large number of smokers quitting but remaining in the service, the expected results would be a high percentage of ever smokers accompanied by a low percentage of current smokers. However, a low percentage of ever smokers was observed. It would thus appear that many current smokers have left active duty service and their replacements consist mainly of never smokers. If this is true, downsizing per se may account for a large proportion of the decline in current smoking. Air Force wide antismoking policy initiatives were also undertaken during this period. In addition, the active duty Air Force population had already seen a drop in current smoking during the period from 1982 to 1992, from approximately 43% to 29%. The present findings, then, are consistent with a continuing downward trend, and give reason to hope that the *Healthy People 2000* goal for military populations (≤20%) can be reached.

#### **Alcohol Abuse**

While the data on current smoking are encouraging, this is not the case for data on alcohol abuse behaviors. Results for alcohol-related risk factors were either notably higher than US median findings or unacceptably high in the face of Air Force standards. Findings for of both current drinking (72% vs. 52%) and binge drinking (26% vs. 14%) were markedly higher in the ADAF population, as compared to CDC BRFSS data. While the difference between the USAF estimates for chronic drinking (4.1% vs. 3.0%) and drinking and driving (2.6% and 2.4%) are not substantially different from the US median results, these data are hardly reassuring given Air Force standards and policies.

## **Screening Tests**

Although prevalence of screening tests was higher among ADAF than the general US population, this survey found specific opportunity for improvement in the area of periodic cholesterol testing. The *Healthy People 2000* goal is that at least 75% of adults should have their cholesterol tested every 5 years, and the ADAF estimate was 71.6%, with the largest command, ACC, having a prevalence of 62.7%. Only 3 of 8 major commands have point estimates above 75%.

The problem with periodic cholesterol testing may lie more in communicating results rather than in actual performance of the testing. For example, USAF wide only 75.0% of ADAF personnel reported they had ever had their cholesterol tested. It is plausible that the true proportion may actually be closer to 100%, but that in many cases the results of the tests were never communicated to the members. In such cases, the end result is nearly the same as if testing was never accomplished, because the active duty members have no knowledge the test was done. From a public health perspective, cholesterol testing without communication of results is of dubious value.

## Other Healthy People 2000 Goals

The Air Force has not met the two *Healthy People 2000* goals discussed thus far: current smoking and cholesterol testing every 5 years. However, the Air Force did meet seven of the eight other Year 2000 goals directly measured by the CDC BRFSS questionnaire. Specifically, the ADAF estimates indicate the following objectives have been accomplished:

- overweight (by body mass index) ≤20%
- lack of safety belt usage (not always using safety belt) <15%</li>
- child safety belt usage (always or nearly always) ≥85%
- child safety seat usage (always or nearly always) ≥95%
- ever had mammogram and breast exam (women 40 and older) ≥80%
- ever had a Pap smear (with uterine cervix, women 18 and older) ≥95%
- had a Pap smear in last 3 years (with uterine cervix, women 18 and older) ≥85%

While the data indicate the Air Force has met the *Healthy People 2000* goal for safety belt usage, the finding that nearly 10% of ADAF members report not always wearing their safety belt still provides an important opportunity for public health intervention. Because this finding is based on self-report, as are all results in this study and the CDC BRFSS, the prevalence of safety belt non-usage may actually be higher.

The ADAF results for the eighth Year 2000 objective (use of child bicycle helmets always or nearly always) were only slightly different from the 50% goal, but the data are insufficient to comment on the statistical significance of the difference.

## **Study Limitations and Proposed Remedies**

Substantial variation between the MAJCOMs was noted, with results differing twofold or more in some cases. Although a much larger total sample size is needed to obtain MAJCOM-specific results at an acceptable level of precision, the investment in this larger sample seems warranted given the variability between commands. Heterogeneity was noted for important risk factors such as current smoking, periodic cholesterol screening, alcohol abuse behaviors, and overweight. Unfortunately, it was not possible to contact as many ADAF women over the age of 40 as had been planned, and as a result no MAJCOM-specific mammography or breast examination analyses were possible. Future surveys will need to have a larger number of potential female respondents in this age group. In some cases substantial gender differences were apparent within MAJCOMs, such as the large male-female dissimilarity in current smoking in ACC. These data were not entirely adequate to evaluate gender differences within commands, and some inadequacies appeared in the MAJCOM comparisons, due to difficulty in conducting workplace telephone interviews among ADAF personnel worldwide. It is apparent that a larger list of potential survey participants is needed in future behavioral risk factor surveillance efforts, in order to accommodate the difficulty in interviewing highly mobile populations, such as USAFE members.

A major reason for the difficulty in contacting ADAF members in the current study is that much of the critical information - such as duty telephone number - had changed between the time OPHSA received personnel data from HQ AFMPC and the time UT-Austin began telesurvey interviewing. During the nearly four months that elapsed between the production of the original worldwide ADAF data file and the beginning of the telephone interviewing, many personnel changed duty location, retired, separated from the Air Force, or changed duty telephone number. Since the HQ AFMPC data is updated on a *daily* basis, it is critical to minimize the interval between generation of the personnel data file and the onset of any telephone interviewing that uses the AFMPC data.

A possible criticism of the current study is that the ADAF members were called at their duty location, rather than at home. However, OPHSA was strongly urged by the Personnel Survey Branch at HQ AFMPC - a group that routinely conducts Air Force-wide surveys of active duty members for the USAF Chief of Staff - to contact the Air Force members at work, based on their consistent finding that this strategy resulted in higher participation rates than home interviews. Moreover, HQ AFMPC experience has shown that the validity of home telephone numbers in Air Force-level databases is highly questionable. Unfortunately, base- and unit-level information, such as from recall rosters, is not available for USAF-wide surveys.

Another potential criticism concerns the truthfulness of service members' responses to sensitive questions, such as current cigarette smoking. Careful examination shows the data do not support this criticism. It seems implausible that active duty Air Force personnel would admit to activities such as drinking and driving and binge drinking, at rates nearly identical to the general US population, while lying about current smoking and other less sensitive issues. Moreover, any pressures to underreport socially undesirable behaviors also exist to some extent in the general

US population, and would downwardly bias the CDC BRFSS findings as well. Aside from the issues of intentional misrepresentation, systematic underestimation of weight by overweight individuals is a widely recognized phenomenon, and for this reason the prevalence estimates for overweight should be seen as *conservative* (i.e., lower than true prevalence) and interpreted with caution. The same holds true for the CDC BRFSS data provided in this report for comparison.)

It must be emphasized that, in making comparisons between ADAF BRFSS results and those from the general US population, the purpose is only to provide a context for the Air Force data. The purpose is *not* to imply that all such comparisons are "fair" or unbiased. There are many important demographic differences between the active duty USAF population and the US general population.

These differences may play a large part in explaining some of the findings of the present study. For example, the ADAF population is younger than the general US population. Thus, it would be expected that a survey of ADAF service members would find a lower prevalence of agerelated illnesses, such as hypertension and diabetes. From a strictly demographic perspective, higher prevalence of both binge drinking and drinking and driving would be expected in our younger population. Since many of the females on active duty in the Air Force are in their 20's and 30's, it would be expected that the chances a woman of any age has ever had a mammogram would be much lower than in the general US population, where the "average" female is substantially older.

The Air Force has dress and appearance standards, which lead to a lower prevalence of overweight among ADAF members as compared with the general US population. These are only a few examples of biases which must be kept in mind when considering the findings of this study.

In some cases where demographic dissimilarities and other biases would be expected to produce relatively large USAF/US differences, relatively small ones were found. With the above biases noted, some of the findings are troubling. For example, given the military's careful selection process for healthy individuals, why is there so little difference between the reported number of days of activity limitation per month (and reported days of poor mental health) in the ADAF population and the general US population? Why is the percentage of ADAF members reporting very good or excellent health only 76%? Given Air Force standards and policies, why is the percentage of active duty USAF members who report drinking and driving not different from that in the general US population?

## **Future Options**

A number of options are available for behavioral risk factor surveillance in the ADAF population in future years. To begin with, the current study was conducted as a point prevalence survey, meaning that it measured the prevalence of behavioral risk factors at a point in time. The CDC BRFSS is conducted by the states on a year-round basis, with a quota of interviews conducted per month to meet an annual goal. Conducting this surveillance on a year round basis would

have the advantage of avoiding seasonal bias, but would probably be unworkable because of geographic movement of sample members, unless each months' sample was drawn at the beginning of the month. Because of the many steps involved in sampling and producing the dialing roster, it would likely take weeks, however, to complete all the steps. A more important obstacle might be the reluctance of HQ AFMPC to produce a worldwide ADAF personnel data file - using OPHSA's inclusion and exclusion criteria - on a monthly basis. As noted above, obtaining the most current AFMPC personnel data would be critical because of frequent updates.

A question was asked on the survey regarding recent TDY travel. Although the TDY data were not analyzed by CDC due to time constraints and limitations of the data, OPHSA investigators could conduct preliminary analyses to explore the influence of TDY on health-related behavior, and TDY travel could be factored into the sampling in the next iteration of ADAF behavioral risk factor surveillance.

The composition of the CDC BRFSS instrument, as described above, changes from year to year, and provides opportunity to track a very large number of behavioral risk factors and screening measures over time. By using the standardized BRFSS instrument the Air Force would take advantage of the CDC's expertise and remain on the leading edge of behavioral risk factor surveillance. Use of the official BRFSS instrument is also a requirement for data analysis by CDC. In continuing this telephone interview-based surveillance system, the Air Force would be using the same methods, the same survey instrument, and the same CDC analysis staff as all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 US territories currently use. This creates the possibility of benchmarking USAF findings to a large body of civilian health data.

Additional modules could be added to the core questions on the CDC BRFSS instrument. Standardized modules are available that cover: use of smokeless tobacco; consumption of dietary fat; consumption of fruits and vegetables; circumstances related to having diabetes; exercise and other forms of physical activity, including leisure and non-leisure activity; weight control; years of healthy life; and quality of life. Certain modules, such as physical activity, are highly relevant to the active duty population.

Given that *Healthy People 2000* goals were primarily written with the US civilian population in view, it may be appropriate for the Air Force to modify these goals, perhaps even on a regular basis. For instance, the Year 2000 goal for regular cholesterol testing is to increase prevalence of periodic screening to at least 75%. If the Air Force (and each MAJCOM) accomplishes this goal, it may be appropriate to then pursue an internal USAF goal of at least 85%. Although the 13% USAF prevalence of overweight (by body mass index) meets the Year 2000 goal of ≤20%, it may be appropriate to set a USAF (and MAJCOM) goal of ≤10%.

Given the excellent progress toward *Healthy People 2000* goals found in the current study, it may be tempting to conclude there is little need for continuous surveillance of behavioral risk factors and screening measures in the ADAF population. This conclusion is unwarranted for several reasons. First, unless continuous measurement is performed, the Air Force (or an individual MAJCOM) may accomplish Year 2000 goals without its knowledge. There is also no guarantee that the current gains toward accomplishing *Healthy People 2000* goals will hold: the prevalence

of current smoking may increase; the prevalence of seat belt use may decrease. Second, the CDC BRFSS instrument does not measure the same behaviors and practices every year. The core instrument is dynamic and, in addition, the Air Force may choose to add available modules examining new areas of interest, such as use of smokeless tobacco. Third, it must be emphasized that the CDC BRFSS instrument does not actually measure behavior *per se*, only the self report of behavior. Thus, it is possible that ADAF personnel (and US residents in the CDC BRFSS) actually behave quite differently than they report. However, if prevalence estimates from a series of annual surveys show a *consistent* pattern, it would lend support to the validity of these results, since a different random sample of ADAF members would be interviewed each year. A question which may appear to one member as touching on a sensitive topic may strike another member as totally innocuous. A particular health topic may be the subject of intense public attention one year and barely discussed the next.

## **Conclusions**

Findings from this study have clear implications for the prevention community. Specific, measurable, verifiable targets can be set using the data. Prevalence of risk factors and preventive health measures can be assessed at the level of a major command, compared across commands, and USAF findings can be compared with data from the general US population. However, the full benefits of the present study will not be realized unless behavioral risk factors in the active duty USAF population are measured *continuously*, so that changes can be measured over time. In this way, progress can be measured, and interventions can be designed to combat emerging trends in unhealthy behaviors.

The present study represents the first USAF wide comprehensive behavioral risk factor survey to provide MAJCOM-specific results. Overall, the data indicate very substantial progress toward meeting *Healthy People 2000* goals, and in general, very good health status, low prevalence of behavioral risk factors, and high prevalence of preventive health measures. Numerous exceptions to these general patterns were found in several areas at the MAJCOM and USAF levels, and each exception presents Air Force public health and preventive medicine practitioners with an opportunity to improve the health of active duty Air Force members. These opportunities exist at the MTF, base, MAJCOM, and Air Force level. Data on health status are generally favorable, but measures of poor mental health and activity limitation differ little from US general population values. The Air Force appears to be within range of accomplishing Year 2000 goals for current smoking, periodic cholesterol testing, and child bicycle helmet use. Significant work is needed in the area of alcohol abuse behaviors, which are either higher than the US population or unacceptably high given Air Force standards and policies.

It is recommended that the present behavioral risk factor surveillance pilot project serve as the first of an annual series of surveys, inaugurating a full-fledged Active Duty Air Force Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

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TABLE 1. Health status measures\* by major command

		lod %)	pulation with ris	Prevalence by major command opported interval [CI]) Propulation with risk factor or mean value, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	ajor command ilue, with 95% c	onfidence interva	al [CI])	
Health status measure	ACC (95% CI)	AETC (95% CI)	AFMC (95% CI)	AF SPACECOM (95% CI)	AFSOC (95% CI)	AMC (95% CI)	PACAF (95% CI)	USAFE (95% CI)
General health status	78.2 (72.3-84.1)	78.5 (72.9-84.1)	73.6 (67.2-80.0)	74.1 (69.2-79.0)	72.8 (66.7-79.0)	74.0 (67.6-80.3)	72.8 (65.9-79.6)	71.0 (63.4-78.6)
Physical health not good (mean, days)	1.3 (0.8-1.8)	0.9 (0.5-1.3)	1.3 (0.6-1.9)	1.3 (0.7-1.8)	1.3 (0.9-1.7)	1.4 (0.9-1.9)	1.4 (0.8-2.0)	1.7 (0.8-2.6)
Mental health not good (mean, days)	2.1 (1.4-2.7)	2.6 (1.8-3.3)	2.0 (1.3-2.8)	2.3 (1.5-3.2)	2.1 (1.4-2.7)	2.3 (1.5-3.2)	2.1 (1.4-2.8)	2.8 (1.8-3.7)
Activities limited (mean, days)	1.9 (0.6-3.1)	1.5 (0.8-2.1)	3.0 (1.5-4.4)	1.6 (0.6-2.6)	2.0 (1.1-2.9)	1.3 (0.7-2.0)	2.0 (1.0-2.9)	1.6 (0.7-2.5)

<sup>\*</sup> Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.

TABLE 2. Risk factors and preventive health measures\* by major command

		(% population	with risk factor	Prevalence by major command tion with risk factor or preventive health measure, with $95\%$ confidence interval [CI])	ajor command th measure, with	o 95% confidence	interval [CI])	
Risk factor/ preventive health measure	ACC (95% CI)	AETC (95% CI)	AFMC (95% CI)	AF SPACECOM (95% CI)	AFSOC (95% CI)	AMC (95% CI)	PACAF (95% CI)	USAFE (95% CI)
Hypertension awareness	9.6 (5.0-14.2)	11.0 (6.8,15.3)	9.9 (5.4,14.4)	9.8 (6.2-13.4)	11.6 (6.7-16.5)	10.6 (6.0-15.2)	(7.1-15.1)	13.0 (7.3-18.7)
Hypertension screening	96.8 (94.2-99.4)	99.2 (98.2-100)	98.9 (97.3-100)	98.7 (97.3-100)	98.2 (96.2-100)	97.4 (94.9-99.9)	99.0 (97.7-100)	100 (100-100)
Cholesterol awareness	15.1 (9.7-20.4)	14.2 (9.6-18.7)	20.1 (14.1-26.2)	18.1 (12.2-24.0)	20.9 (14.9-27.0)	20.2 (14.3-26.1)	16.5 (11.4-21.5)	14.2 (8.4-20.1)
Cholesterol screening†	67.0 (60.4-73.7)	75.4 (69.5-81.2)	82.2 (76.8-87.7)	81.1 (73.1-89.2)	74.9 (65.9-83.9)	82.6 (76.8-88.4)	77.6 (71.5-83.8)	73.0 (65.4-80.7)
Cholesterol screening§	62.7 (55.8-69.5)	72.6 (66.6-78.7)	80.3 (74.6-86.0)	77.4 (69.8-85.1)	68.2 (59.9-76.5)	80.8 (74.8-86.8)	74.6 (68.5-80.7)	67.5 (59.5-75.5)
Diabetes awareness	0-0)	0.1 (0-0.2)	1.3 (0-3.0)	0.4 (0-1.3)	0-0)	1.0 (0-2.2)	0-0)	0-0)
Ever smoked	45.0 (37.9-52.1)	36.1 (29.6-42.7)	34.2 (27.3-41.2)	41.0 (33.6-48.3)	37.3 (29.4-45.2)	38.2 (31.1-45.3)	39.5 (33.5-45.6)	36.8 (28.6-45.0)
Current smokers	29.0 (22.3-35.7)	19.7 (14.3-25.2)	15.1 (9.9-20.2)	21.5 (14.8-28.1)	25.0 (18.3-31.6)	19.7 (13.9-25.6)	20.6 (15.4-25.7)	19.6 (12.8-26.4)

<sup>\*</sup> Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures. † Ever had cholesterol checked. § Had cholesterol checked in last 5 years.

TABLE 3. Risk factors and preventive health measures\* by major command (cont.)

		(% population	with risk factor	Prevalence by major command on with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	ajor command th measure, with	95% confidence	interval [CI])	
Risk factors/ preventive health measure	ACC (95% CI)	AETC (95% CI)	AFMC (95% CI)	AF SPACECOM (95% CI)	AFSOC (95% CI)	AMC (95% CI)	PACAF (95% CI)	USAFE (95% CI)
Current drinkers	71.5 (65.3-77.6)	68.4 (62.2-74.6)	71.5 (64.9-78.1)	74.7 (67.8-81.5)	77.2 (71.0-83.4)	73.5 (67.7-79.0)	73.3 (67.7-79.0)	77.8 (70.9-84.8)
Binge drinking	28.8 (22.3-35.4)	20.3 (14.7-25.9)	23.6 (17.3-30.0)	23.5 (15.9-31.2)	34.5 (28.3-40.7)	23.5 (17.1-29.9)	33.3 (27.3-39.3)	28.5 (20.7-36.3)
Chronic drinking	3.1 (0.6-5.6)	2.8 (0.4-5.3)	4.4 (1.4-7.4)	2.3 (0.4-4.2)	5.8 (2.3-9.2)	4.1 (1.0-7.2)	6.8 (3.4-10.2)	7.9 (3.2-12.6)
Drinking and driving	4.4 (1.4-7.5)	2.6 (0.5-4.7)	0.7 (0-1.9)	1.0 (0-2.4)	4.4 (2.2-6.6)	0.8 (0-2.1)	2.6 (0.5-4.6)	2.2 (0-4.8)
Overweight: by body mass index	10.7 (6.0-15.3)	9.9 (5.8-14.1)	17.6 (11.9-23.4)	12.3 (7.7-17.0)	16.1 (10.5-21.6)	17.1 (11.5-22.7)	17.0 (12.2-21.8)	14.5 (8.6-20.4)
Overweight: by median	17.2 (11.5-22.8)	14.2 (9.5-19.0)	25.4 (18.8-31.9)	17.2 (11.7-22.8)	20.9 (15.2-26.5)	21.9 (15.8-28.1)	22.9 (17.5-28.3)	20.3 (13.5-27.1)
AIDS: encourage teen condom use	90.6 (86.3-94.8)	90.5 (86.5-94.5)	89.9 (85.3-94.4)	92.7 (88.5-96.9)	92.6 (89.3-95.8)	93.8 (90.0-97.6)	91.4 (87.8-95.0)	96.0 (92.8-99.3)
AIDS: condom effectiveness	36.8 (30.1-43.6)	38.3 (31.7-44.9)	40.4 (33.2-47.5)	41.2 (34.4-48.0)	40.0 (33.2-46.9)	35.6 (28.6-42.7)	37.8 (31.8-43.8)	48.4 (39.9-56.8)
AIDS blood test	96.3 (93.8-98.7)	96.4 (93.7-99.0)	96.8 (94.3-99.3)	97.4 (94.9-99.9)	95.2 (91.9-98.5)	94.8 (91.4-98.3)	99.6 (98.7-100)	95.7 (92.2-99.2)
Chances of getting AIDS	2.4 (0-4.8)	3.1 (0.9-5.3)	1.6 (0-3.5)	1.1 (0-2.3)	0.9 (0-2.15)	2.6 (0.4-2.7)	1.3 (0-2.7)	1.5 (0-3.6)

\* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.

TABLE 4. Injury-related risk factors\* by major command

		(% population	with risk factor	Prevalence by major command tion with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	ajor command th measure, with	95% confidence	interval [CI])	
Injury-related risk factor	ACC (95% CI)	AETC (95% CI)	AFMC (95% CI)	AF SPACECOM (95% CI)	AFSOC (95% CI)	AMC (95% CI)	PACAF (95% CI)	USAFE (95% CI)
Lack of safety belt usage†	1.6 (0-3.2)	2.1 (0.1-4.1)	0.5 (0-1.6)	0.8 (0-1.9)	1.3 (0-2.7)	3.2 (0.5-6.0)	0.9 (0-2.2)	0-0)
Lack of safety belt usage§	10.6 (6.4-14.8)	8.4 (4.4-12.3)	10.0 (5.6-14.5)	11.2 (5.7-16.8)	11.7 (7.1-16.3)	10.8 (6.2-15.4)	8.9 (5.0-12.8)	6.9 (2.5-11.2)
Child safety belt	97.5 (92.7-100)	94.4 (88.3-100)	97.3 (93.6-100)	97.0 (92.9-100)	98.5 (95.6-100)	97.4 (92.3-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)
Child safety seat usage	99.7 (99.1-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	97.5 (92.6-100)	97.6 (92.8-100)	99.2 (97.6-100)	97.3 (91.9-100)	100 (100-100)
Use of child bicycle helmets	62.3 (48.4-76.1)	41.8 (28.0-55.6)	50.4 (38.3-62.5)	64.7 (55.3-74.0)	39.6 (27.0-52.2)	55.8 (40.8-70.7)	55.8 (44.6-66.9)	57.0 (40.5-73.5)
Smoke detectors	80.0 (74.6-85.5)	77.9 (72.2-83.6)	85.9 (80.9-90.9)	78.0 (72.6-83.5)	86.4 (82.0-90.9)	81.0 (75.0-86.9)	75.9 (70.1-81.7)	73.3 (65.8-80.8)
				The state of the s				

<sup>\*</sup> Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures. † Uses safety belts sometimes, seldom, or never. \$ Does not always use a safety belt.

TABLE 5. Cancer screening measures\* by major command

Prevalence by major command

		(% population	ı with risk factor	(% population with risk factor or cancer screening measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	ig measure, with	95% confidence	interval [CI])	
Cancer screening measure	ACC (95% CI)	AETC (95% CI)	AFMC (95% CI)	AF SPACECOM (95% CI)	AFSOC (95% CI)	AMC (95% CI)	PACAF (95% CI)	USAFE (95% CI)
Rectal exam	87.4 (71.8-100)	91.8 (83.2-100)	93.7 (85.2-100)	96.6 (89.9-100)	85.5 (72.7-98.3)	93.2 (82.4-100)	80.1 (66.2-94.0)	100 (100-100)
Mammogram-females†	20.6 (15.2-26.0)	33.4 (25.6-41.3)	33.7 (21.6-45.8)	23.4 (0-50.1)	34.7 (19.4-49.9)	36.7 (26.2-47.1)	34.6 (21.0-48.1)	34.0 (17.4-50.7)
Mammogram-females\$	1	ı	Ι	I	I	1	!	l
Breast exam-females¶	95.5 (92.3-98.6)	93.1 (88.3-97.9)	95.0 (88.9-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	97.4 (93.7-100)	87.4 (77.5-97.3)	100 (100-100)
Breast exam-females**	1	I	I		1	1	1	I
Mammogram and breast exam-females	1	I		I		1	-	1
Ever had a pap smear	99.6 (98.9-100)	99.0 (97.1-100)	94.3 (86.7-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	98.3 (94.9-100)	97.3 (91.9-100)	100 (100-100)
Ever had a pap smear (with uterine cervix)	99.6 (98.9-100)	99.0 (96.9-100)	94.1 (86.1-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	98.2 (94.6-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)
Had pap smear within 3 years (with uterine cervix)	99.6 (98.9-100)	98.4 (96.0-100)	93.1 (85.0-100)	98.5 (95.4-100)	100 (100-100)	98.2 (94.6-100)	97.1 (91.4-100)	95.4 (86.6-100)

Estimate unreliable due to very small sample size.
\* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.
† Ever had a mammogram, aged 18 and older.
§ Ever had a mammogram, aged 40 and older.
¶ Ever had a clinical breast exam, aged 18 and older.

\*\* Ever had a clinical breast exam, aged 40 and older.

TABLE 6. Prevalence of selected risk factors and preventive health measures\* by gender for ACC, AETC, AFMC, and AF SPACECOM

Risk factor/ preventive health measure		(% populatio	Preva n with risk factor	Prevalence by gender for each major command factor or preventive health measure, with 95%	or each major con ofth measure, with	Prevalence by gender for each major command n with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	interval [CI])	
	A(	ACC	AE	AETC	AF	AFMC	AF SPACECOM	ECOM
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
General health status	79.1 (72.3-86.0)	72.6 (66.3-78.9)	78.0 (71.2-84.8)	80.7 (74.0-87.5)	74.8 (67.6-82.0)	67.8 (55.0-80.5)	74.5 (69.3-79.8)	71.3 (58.8-83.9)
Hypertension awareness	10.3 (4.9-15.7)	5.8 (2.7-8.9)	11.9 (6.7-17.1)	7.7 (3.2-12.2)	11.1 (5.8-16.5)	3.6 (0-7.7)	7.7 (4.5-11.0)	22.8 (15.5-30.2)
Hypertension screening	96.2 (93.2-99.3)	. 100 (100-100)	99.4 (98.1-100)	98.6 (96.5-100)	98.7 (96.8-100)	100 (100-100)	98.5 (96.9-100)	100 (100-100)
Cholesterol screening†	62.0 (54.1-69.9)	66.6 (59.7-73.6)	75.1 (67.9-82.3)	62.4 (53.6-71.1)	82.1 (75.9-88.3)	71.2 (58.0-84.4)	79.8 (73.1-86.5)	1
Diabetes awareness	0-0)	0-0)	0-0)	0.4 (0-1.2)	1.5 (0-3.6)	0-0)	0.5 (0-1.5)	0-0)
Lack of safety belt usages	1.7 (0-3.6)	0.9 (0-2.3)	2.1 (0-4.6)	1.8 (0-4.0)	0.6 (0-1.9)	0-0)	0.5 (0-1.4)	2.9 (0-7.8)
Lack of safety belt usage¶	11.0 (6.2-15.9)	8.2 (3.2-13.1)	9.4 (4.5-14.3)	4.0 (0.8-7.2)	9.9 (4.9-14.9)	10.7 (1.2-20.1)	11.8 (5.5-18.2)	7.6 (0.7-14.5)
Current smokers	30.6 (22.8-38.3)	20.0 (14.3-25.6)	20.0 (13.5-26.6)	18.4 (11.6-25.2)	14.5 (8.7-20.3)	17.9 (7.4-28.4)	21.8 (14.2-29.4)	19.6 (11.4-27.7)

<sup>—</sup> Estimate unreliable due to very small sample size.

\* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.

† Had cholesterol checked in last 5 years.

§ Uses safety belts sometimes, seldom, or never.

¶ Does not always use a safety belt.

TABLE 7. Prevalence of selected risk factors and preventive health measures\* by gender for ACC, AETC, AFMC, and AF SPACECOM (cont.)

		(% population	_	factor or preventive health measure, with 95%	with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	95% confidence i	interval [C1])	
	ACC	၁	AETC	rc	AFMC	C	AF SPACECOM	ECOM
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Binge drinking	31.9 (24.2-39.5)	11.3 (6.9-15.7)	23.0 (16.1-29.8)	9.6 (4.6-14.6)	27.1 (19.7-34.5)	6.6 (0-14.3)	26.1 (17.6-34.6)	7.6 (0.7-14.5)
Chronic drinking	3.5 (0.6-6.4)	0.7 (0-1.7)	3.5 (0.5-6.6)	0-0)	5.3 (1.7-8.9)	0-0)	2.7 (0.5-4.8)	0-0)
Drinking and driving	5.0 (1.5-8.6)	1.0 (0-2.4)	2.6 (0.1-5.2)	2.4 (0-5.2)	0.7 (0-2.1)	0.9 (0-2.7)	0.8 (0-2.8)	0-0)
Overweight: by body mass index	11.7 (6.3-17.2)	4.5 (1.9-7.1)	11.4 (6.2-16.5)	4.1 (0.7-7.4)	20.5 (13.7-27.3)	3.3 (0-7.1)	14.3 (9.2-19.4)	0-0)
Overweight: by median	18.6 (12.0-25.2)	8.8 (5.0-12.7)	15.7 (9.9-21.5)	8.2 (3.7-12.6)	29.6 (22.0-37.3)	4.2 (0.1-8.4)	19.6 (13.5-25.6)	2.9 (0-7.8)
Rectal exam	87.2 (70.8-100)	89.4 (75.2-100)	93.0 (83.5-100)	83.6 (66.7-100)	93.1 (83.8-100)	100 (100-100)	96.2 (88.8-100)	100 (100-100)

\* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.

TABLE 8. Prevalence of selected risk factors and preventive health measures\* by gender for AFSOC, AMC, PACAF, and USAFE

Risk factor/ preventive health measure		(% population		nce by gender for or preventive heal	Prevalence by gender for each major command with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])	nand 15% confidence in	ıterval [CL])	
	AFSOC	. 20	AMC	10	PACAF	AF	USAFE	FE
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
General health status	74.2 (67.9-79.0)	60.8 (44.0-77.7)	74.8 (67.5-82.0)	69.7 (59.5-80.0)	73.1 (65.5-80.8)	70.7 (57.5-83.8)	73.2 (64.9-81.6)	
Hypertension awareness	12.3 (7.0-17.6)	5.4 (0-13.4)	11.1 (5.8-16.4)	8.2 (2.3-14.0)	11.6 (7.1-16.1)	8.3 (0.1-16.5)	13.6 (7.1-20.0)	10.1 (0-21.2)
Hypertension screening	98.0 (95.8-100)	100 (100-100)	96.9 (94.0-99.9)	100 (100-100)	98.9 (97.3-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)
Cholesterol screening†	67.8 (58.8-76.8)	I	79.8 (72.9-86.7)	86.2 (78.2-94.1)	73.3 (66.4-80.1)	82.0 (70.3-93.6)	67.9 (59.1-76.8)	,
Diabetes awareness	0-0)	0-0)	0.7 (0-2.0)	2.6 (0-6.3)	0-0)	0-0)	0-0)	0-0)
Lack of safety belt usage§	1.4 (0-2.9)	0-0)	3.2 (0.1-6.3)	3.4 (0-8.1)	1.1 (0-2.6)	0-0)	0-0)	0-0)
Lack of safety belt usage¶	12.0 (7.3-16.7)	l	10.6 (5.3-15.8)	12.2 (5.1-19.2)	9.0 (4.7-13.3)	8.2 (0-17.1)	7.6 (2.5-12.7)	2.9 (0-8.6)
Current	22.2 (16.3-28.1)	1	20.1 (13.4-26.8)	(9.5-25.9)	20.7 (15.0-26.4)	19.7 (8.6-30.8)	21.9 (14.1-29.7)	7.2 (0-17.0)

<sup>Estimate unreliable due to very small sample size.
\* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.
† Had cholesterol checked in last 5 years.
§ Use safety belts sometimes, seldom, or never.
¶ Does not always use a safety belt.
\*\* This estimate is based on a small sample size and has a very large standard error.</sup> 

TABLE 9. Prevalence of selected risk factors and preventive health measures\* by gender for AFSOC, AMC, PACAF, and USAFE (cont.)

Prevalence by gender for each major command (% population with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])

Risk factor/

preventive health measure		(% population	n with risk factor	or preventive he	actor or preventive health measure, with 95%	with risk factor or preventive health measure, with 95% confidence interval [CI])		
	AFSOC	0C	AMC	ıc	PACAF	AF	USAFE	FE
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Binge drinking	35.6 (29.5-41.7)	24.8 (0-51.4)	25.8 (18.4-33.2)	(3.5-18.6)	37.6 (30.6-44.6)	9.8 (1.2-18.3)	31.8 (23.0-40.7)	10.4 (0-22.1)
Chronic drinking	6.4 (2.6-10.2)	0-0)	4.7 (1.0-8.3)	0.9 (0-2.6)	7.3 (3.4-11.1)	4.2 (0-10.1)	8.6 (3.2-13.9)	4.3 (0-12.5)
Drinking and driving	4.9 (2.5-6.6)	0-0)	0.8 (0-2.4)	0.7 (0-2.1)	2.0 (0-4.1)	5.5 (0-12.8)	1.9 (0-4.4)	4.3 (0-12.5)
Overweight: by body mass index	17.8 (12.0-23.6)	0-0)	18.9 (12.3-25.4)	7.6 (1.4-13.8)	19.3 (13.8-24.9)	4.2 (0-10.1)	14.3 (7.8-20.9)	15.2 (2.1-28.3)
Overweight: by median	21.7 (15.7-27.8)	13.1 (0.6-25.5)	23.9 (16.8-31.1)	11.1 (3.8-18.3)	25.8 (19.7-31.9)	6.9 (0-14.7)	20.7 (13.1-28.3)	18.1 (4.2-32.0)
Rectal exam	84.9 (71.5-98.3)	100 (100-100)	93.5 (80.9-100)	91.9 (76.4-100)	81.7 (65.5-97.8)	1	100 (100-100)	100 (100-100)

<sup>\*</sup> Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures. — Estimate unreliable due to very small sample size.

TABLE 10. Health status measures\*, entire ADAF population compared with national results and goals

Health status measure	USAF prevalence (% or mean, with 95% CI†)		1993 CDC BRFSS		Healthy People 2000 Goal (% or mean)
		Low state (% or mean)	US median (% or mean)	High state (% or mean)	
General health status	75.6 (73.1-78.2)				
Physical health not good (mean, days)	1.3 (1.1-1.5)	1.6	2.9	4.1	1
Mental health not good (mean, days)	2.3 (2.0-2.6)	1.4	2.8	4.0	1
Activities limited (mean, days)	1.8 (1.3-2.2)	0.7	1.6	2.7	1

—Not measured in 1993 CDC BRFSS or does not measure any specific *Healthy People 2000* goal.

\* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.

TABLE 11. Risk factors and preventive health measures\*, entire ADAF population compared with national results and goals

Risk factor/ preventive health measure	USAF prevalence (%, with 95% CI†)	1	1993 CDC BRFSS		Healthy People 2000 Goal (%)
		Low state (%)	US median (%)	High state (%)	
Hypertension awareness	10.5 (8.6-12.4)	16.8	21.7	29.8	
Hypertension screening	98.2 (97.2-99.1)	90.3	93.5	96.5	
Cholesterol awareness	16.6 (14.4-18.9)	11.9	19.2	23.3	I
Cholesterol screening§	75.0 (72.3-77.7)	59.5	67.9	75.6	
Cholesterol screening¶	71.6 (68.8-74.4)	57.0	65.0	73.4	≥75
Diabetes awareness	0.3 (0-0.6)	2.7	4.5	6.3	

— Not measured in 1993 CDC BRFSS or does not measure any specific *Healthy People 2000* goal. \* Please see Methods section for definitions of risk factors and preventive health measures.

† Confidence interval. § Ever had cholesterol checked. ¶ Had cholesterol checked in last 5 years.

TABLE 12. Risk factors and preventive health measures\*, entire ADAF population compared with national results and goals (cont.)

Risk factor/ preventive health measure	USAF prevalence (%, with 95% CI†)		1993 CDC BRFSS		Healthy People 2000 Goal (%)
		Low state (%)	US median (%)	High state (%)	
Ever smoked	39.7	30.9	49.0	57.6	
Current smokers	22.4 (19.7-25.0)	14.5	22.5	30.1	<200\$
Current drinkers	72.3 (69.6-74.9)	27.4	51.6	9.69	
Binge drinking	26.2 (23.5-28.9)	4.2	14.2	22.8	1
Chronic drinking	4.1 (2.9-5.2)	1.4	3.0	6.1	1
Drinking and driving	2.6 (1.5-3.7)	0.8	2.4	5.3	I
Overweight: by body mass index	13.4 (11.3-15.4)	20.2	25.5	31.7	<20
Overweight: by median	19.1 (16.7-21.5)	24.0	30.1	36.3	1
AIDS: encourage teen condom use	91.7	85.7	91.8	94.9	1
AIDS: condom effectiveness	38.6 (35.8-41.5)	17.7	25.5	39.2	1
AIDS blood test	96.4 (95.3-97.5)	15.1	25.0	39.5	1
Chances of getting AIDS	2.2 (1.2-3.1)	0.8	2.1	3.8	I

<sup>—</sup> Not measured in 1993 CDC BRFSS or does not measure any specific *Healthy People 2000* goal. \* Please see Methods section for definitions of risk factors and preventive health measures.

<sup>†</sup> Confidence interval. § Healthy People 2000 objective written specifically for military personnel.

TABLE 13. Injury-related risk factors\*, entire ADAF compared with national results and goals

Injury-related risk factor	USAF prevalence (%, with 95% CI†)	1	1993 CDC BRFSS		Healthy People 2000 Goal (%)
		Low state (%)	US median (%)	High state (%)	
Lack of safety belt usage§	1.6 (0.8-2.3)	3.9	20.8	52.0	
Lack of safety belt usage¶	9.8 (8.0-11.6)	10.1	36.3	74.8	<15
Child safety belt	97.4 (95.4-99.4)	I	I	1	≥85
Child safety seat usage	99.3 (98.6-100)		I	4	≥95
Use of child bicycle helmets	55.3 (49.5-61.1)	L	-	1	>50
Smoke detectors	79.5 (77.1-81.9)	1	1	1	1

<sup>—</sup>Not measured in 1993 CDC BRFSS or does not measure any specific *Healthy People 2000* goal. \* Please see Methods section for definitions of risk factors and preventive health measures. † Confidence interval. \$ Use safety belts sometimes, seldom, or never. ¶ Does not always use a safety belt.

TABLE 14. Cancer screening measures\*, entire ADAF population compared with national results and goals

Cancer screening measure	USAF prevalence (%, with 95% CI†)	1	1993 CDC BRFSS		Healthy People 2000 Goal (%)
		Low state (%)	US median (%)	High state (%)	
Rectal exam	90.6 (85.0-96.2)	24.5	39.8	51.6	
Mammogram-females§	29.9 (26.1-33.8)	46.8	53.9	59.0	. [
Mammogram-females¶	94.4 (89.5-99.4)	68.5	77.9	85.7	I
Breast exam-females**	95.1 (93.2-97.0)	82.6	89.5	94.3	1
Breast exam-females††	98.6 (95.9-100)	81.6	8.68	95.0	1
Mammogram and breast exam-females	93.1 (87.5-98.6)	63.6	73.4	81.8	08⋜
Ever had a pap smear	98.6 (97.4-99.8)	85.4	93.4	96.4	1
Ever had a pap smear (with uterine cervix)	98.8 (97.6-99.9)	84.3	93.7	9.96	≥95
Had pap smear within 3 years (with uterine cervix)	97.8 (96.4-99.3)	-	-	l	≥85

<sup>—</sup> Not measured in 1993 CDC BRFSS or does not measure any specific *Healthy People 2000* goal. \* Please see Methods section for definitions of all risk factors and preventive health measures.

<sup>†</sup> Confidence interval.

<sup>§</sup> Ever had a mammogram, aged 18 and older.

¶ Ever had a mammogram, aged 40 and older.

\*\* Ever had a clinical breast examination, aged 18 and older.

†† Ever had a clinical breast examination, aged 40 and older.

**APPENDICES** 

### APPENDIX A

Quality Control Report from University of Texas-Austin

Quality Control Report
Behavioral Risk Factor Study:
United States Air Force Personnel
November 1995

Commissioned by The United States Air Force

Conducted by The Office of Survey Research,
College of Communication
The University of Texas at Austin,
Austin TX 78712, (512) 471-4980

Ms. Veronica Inchauste, Director Ms. Ana María Arumí, Manager

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The data collection conducted for the BRFS study with Air Force personnel can be attributed to the collaboration of many individuals who work at the Office of Survey Research, College of Communication, University of Texas at Austin.

Ms. Veronica Inchauste, director of the Office of Survey Research (OSR), was in charge of overseeing all the data collection procedures for the project. Ms. Ana María Arumí, Manager of OSR, was in charge of training all new personnel. Ms. Indy Gutierrez was the field director in charge of sample control on a day to day basis along with the Assistant Field Director, Mr. Raul Peña. All administrative services were provided by Ms. Lanora Davidson.

We would like to thank all the data collection team who dedicated many hours of work to make this project a success.

November, 1995

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# BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR STUDY: US AIR FORCE PERSONNEL

### QUALITY CONTROL REPORT

#### I.- INTRODUCTION

The Behavioral Risk Factor survey for the US Air Force consisted of conducting telephone interviews with active Air Force service members working in bases throughout the world. The sample was stratified by major command rank group and gender. A total of eight major commands and three rank groups were used for stratification. The Office of Survey Research's (OSR's) role in this project consisted of modifying an existing questionnaire provided by the Center for Disease Control to fit US Air Force needs, conducting data collection, cleaning and editing data as well as re-contacting respondents to verify information, providing a final output of the data and preparing a quality control report.

#### II. - METHODOLOGY

#### Sampling

In March, 1995, OPHSA obtained a data file containing demographics (e.g., name and rank) and assignment information (e.g., current base duty assignment) from Headquarters, Air Force Military Personnel Center (HQ AFMPC) at Randolph AFB, Texas. The following personnel were excluded from this file: basic military trainees and other ADAF members in training status, members of the Air Force Office of Special Investigation; and active duty USAF members with a high likelihood of impending personnel actions involving geographic movement (e.g., permanent change of station, separation). All other ADAF members worldwide were included in the sample. After the file was received by OPHSA, the decision was made to also exclude general officers. The

AFMPC data file was merged with a smaller file containing telephone contact data, such as dialing sequences for overseas bases, etc.

The data set was stratified by major command (MAJCOM), gender, and rank group. Eight MAJCOMs were used (ACC, AFMC, AMC, AF SPACECOM, AFSOC, PACAF, USAFE, and AETC), and service members were categorized by the MAJCOM of their base of assignment. Only ADAF members who were assigned to an Air Force military installation (e.g., base, air station) belonging to one of the above eight MAJCOMs were eligible for this survey. Three rank groups were used: junior enlisted (E1-E4); senior enlisted (E5-E9); and officers (01-06). Simple random sampling was then performed within each of the resulting 48 (8 MAJCOM x 2 gender x 3 rank) strata, with a predetermined number of members drawn from each stratum. This number was determined for each stratum using nonlinear programming. Selection probabilities were unequal across the strata. The total number of ADAF members chosen for the sample was 3,930.

The final data file sent to the Air Force from the Office of Survey Research (OSR) contains no personal identifiers, only the stratum variable denoting major command and rank group, as well as the responses to the survey questions. Thus, it will be impossible in the final OSR data file to link responses to specific individuals.

#### Ouestionnaire

The questionnaire was designed by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. Please refer to Appendix A which explain the changes made to the original questionnaire provided by CDC to adapt it to the BRFS Study for the US Airforce.

### Data Collection Team

The OSR's data collection team for this project consisted of a Field Director and an Assistant Field Director who were in charge of constant monitoring of the sample, sample control, verification of interviews and scheduling of monitoring and evaluating interviewers and supervisors. The core data collection team consisted of fifty interviewers and eighteen supervisors.

All interviewers and supervisors received extensive training including 22 hours of classroom instruction, computer tutorials and practice interviewing sessions. The data collection team was familiarized with the overall study objectives, interviewing techniques, the use of the Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system, the survey instrument, the definitions of key terms specific to the study, and the University of Texas statement of interviewer ethics and obligations.

Interviewer performance was evaluated throughout the data collection period. A four-person monitoring team used a standardized evaluation instrument to randomly assess individual interviewing performance in the use of appropriate feedback, reading verbatim, proper speech and pronunciation, interviewing pace, and general rapport with respondents. Interviewers were monitored several times during the study period and received feedback on their performance.

Survey supervisors also verified about 10% of the completed interviews during the data collection period to insure that interviews were conducted with the correct respondent. The verification procedure consisted of recontacting respondents of completed surveys and asking them whether they participated in the survey.

The Office of Survey Research used a DOS computer program provided by CDC to check the logic and accuracy of the data collected. After running this program, a list of few cases was produced that needed some verification of specific information. OSR re-contacted some respondents to verify the desired information.

## III. QUALITY CONTROL RESULTS

### Sample Disposition

The final outcome of every sample point called is summarized in the following tables by command post. The last table contains the final outcome for the entire sample used in the study.

COMMAND AMC	Sample
Completed Interviews	. 228
Refusals	4
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	33
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	109
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	116
Problem/Computer Problem	17
•	
TOTAL	507

COMMAND SPC	Sample
Completed Interviews	220
Refusals	5
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	29
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	77
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	91
Problem/Computer Problem	3
TOTAL	425

COMMAND SOC	Sample
Completed Interviews	219
Refusals	6
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	25
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	55
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	105
Problem/Computer Problem	3
TOTAL	413
COMMAND EUR	Sample
Completed Interviews	141
Refusals	3
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	56
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	102
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	111
Problem/Computer Problem	8
TOTAL	421
COMMAND AET	Sample
Completed Interviews	296
Refusals	8
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	30
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	110
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	83
Problem/Computer Problem	6
TOTAL	533

COMMAND PAC	Sample
Completed Interviews	234
Refusals	6
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	15
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	94
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	72
Problem/Computer Problem	1
TOTAL	422
COMMAND ACC	Sample
Completed Interviews	383
Refusals	12
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	42
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	148
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	143
Problem/Computer Problem	5
TOTAL	733
COMMAND MAT	Sample
Completed Interviews	210
Refusals	3
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	19
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	114
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	125
Problem/Computer Problem	3
TOTAL	474

ENTIRE STUDY	Sample
Completed Interviews	1,932
Refusals	47
Disconnected/Fax Line/Constantly Busy	249
No longer at Base/Discharged/Retired/Separated	809
Unable to find Respondent/No Answer/Away for the Duration of Project/	846
Problem/Computer Problem	45
TOTAL	3,928

#### Response Rates

When computing response rates or what is also called the cooperation rate of respondents the following formulas were used:

Formula #1

UPPER BOUND = Completed Interviews

Completed Interviews + Refusals

Formula #2

RESP. RATE = Completed Interviews

Completed Int. + Refusal + Unable to Find Respondent

Please refer to Table 1.1 for individual response rates by Command Post and for the final response rates for the entire study.

Table 1.1
Response Rates by Command Post

Command Post	Formula #1	Formula #2	
AMC	98%	66%	
SPC	98%	70%	
SOC	97%	66%	
EUR	98%	. 55%	
AET	97%	76%	
PAC	98%	75%	
ACC	97%	71%	
MAT	99%	62%	
·			
TOTAL STUDY	98%	68%	

# APPENDIX • CHANGES MADE TO QUESTIONNAIRE

## Changes Made to the BRFS Questionnaire Provided by CDC:

The following questions were omitted:

- 1) Do you have any kind of health care coverage, including health insurance, prepaid plans such as HMO's or government plans such as Medicare?
- 2) About how long has it been since you had health care coverage?
- 3) Was there a time during the last 12 months when you needed to see a doctor, but could not because of the cost?
- 4) What county do you live in?
- 5) Do you have more than one telephone number in your household?
- 6) How many residential telephone numbers do you have?

  The following question was added:
- 1) During the last month, have you been on temporary duty (or 'TDY') from your regular duty location for one week or more?

## APPENDIX B

1995 Centers for Disease Ccntrol and Prevention Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Core Questionnaire

# 1995 Behavioral Risk Factor Questionnaire

FIPS STATE STRATUM CODE CODE	PSU NUMBER	RECORD NUMBER	DATE OF INTERVIEW	YY
(1-2) (3)	(4-8)	(9)	(10–15)	(16–17)
We're doing a study of Your phone number h	of the health practices of_ as been chosen randomly and we'd like to ask some	by the	residents. t	o be
Area code  Is this (18–20)	Prefix (21–23)	Suffix (24–25)	No have poss.	nk you very much, but I seem dialed the wrong number. ible that your number may b ed at a later time. STOP
Is this a private reside	nce? No Thank you ver interviewing p	y much, but we are only rivate residences. STOP		
Date Till  Date Till	Time	Time ID	Comments	
Appointments:  Today's date/time	Spoke with	Ask for	Callback date/time ID	Comments
2				
Refusals:  Date/time	Spoke with	ID	Com	ments
2nd				
Ca	all Disposition Codes		Edited by:	
01 - Completed interview. 02 - Refused interview. 03 - Nonworking number. 04 - No answer (multiple times).	<ul> <li>07 - No eligible respondent c time period.</li> <li>08 - Language barrier prever interview.</li> <li>09 - Interview terminated with</li> </ul>	nted completion of	Date: Final disposition of telephone care	
<ul><li>D5 - Business phone.</li><li>D6 - No eligible respondent at this number.</li></ul>	10 - Line busy (multiple tries) 11 - Selected respondent un- because of physical or n	). able to respond	Wind down:	(26–27)

$\Diamond$	Our study requires that we ranto be interviewed. How many 18 years of age or older?	ndomly select y members o	ct one a of your l	dult wh	old, in	s in yo cluding	ur hou g your	sehol self, a	d re		(29-30)		
	If "1" Are you the ad	lult?											
	If "yes" ➡ Th	en you are th	ne perso	n I nee	d to sp	eak w	ith. <b>G</b> o	to pa	ige 3 🏻	B			
	If "no" 🗘 Ma	ay I speak wi	ith him	or her?	Go to	"corre	ct resp	onde	nt" at t	oottom	of page	1	
$\Diamond$	How many of these adults are	e men and ho	ow man	y are w	omen?	?	<b>Men</b> (31)		Women (32)				
<b>\</b>	Who is the oldest man who p. Who is the next oldest man w. Etc.	resently live ho presently	s in this lives in	housel n this h	nold? ouseho	old?							
$\Diamond$	Who is the oldest woman who Who is the next oldest woman Etc.	o presently l	ives in t atly live	this hou es in thi	iseholo s hous	d? ehold?	,						
		s	Suffix: _										
					Last	digit of	phone	numl	ber				
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
	Name or Relations	hip				4	4	4	•	4	1	1.	
	1.	1		1		<u> </u>		2	1	2	_ <del></del>	2.	
	2.	<u>z</u>	<u></u>	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	X	3.	
	3.		2	3	<u></u>	1	2	3	4	x	X	4.	
Total adults	4.		3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	5.	Total adults
auuits	5.			1	2	3	4	x	X	Х		6.	
	6.	2		4	5	6	7	1	X	Х	x	7.	
	7.	8		2	3	4	5	6	7		X	8.	
	8.		<u>.</u>										
$\Box$	The person in your household	that I need	to speal	k with i	s						*		
•	2110 possous su y seu seu se								to pag	e 3 🎼	夏		
	To correct respondent	Hello, I'r the special re residents	esearch	team.	We're	doing	a stud	 ly of_	l'm a r	nembe	r of a	-	
		habits. I	ou hav	e been	rando	mly ch	osen t	o be i	nclude	d in the	e study		

The interview will only take a short time, and all the information obtained in this study will be confidential.

## Section 1: Health Status

1. Would you s	ay that in general your health is:	(33)
	Please Read	
a.	Excellent	1
b.	Very good	2
c.	Good	3
d.		4
e.	or Poor	5
Do not read	Don't know/Not sure	7
these responses.	Refused	9
	g about your physical health, which includes physical illness or how many days during the past 30 days was your physical bod?	(34-35)
a.	Number of days	
b.	None	8 8
	Don't know/Not sure	7 7
	Refused	9 9
and problem	ag about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, as with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days ental health not good?	(36-37)
a.	Number of days	
b.	None If Q. 2 also "None," go to Q. 5 (p. 5)	8 8
	Don't know/Not sure	7 7
	Refused	9 9

4.	During the past 30 days, for about how many days did poor physical or mental health keep you from doing your usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation?	(38-39)
	a. Number of days	
	b. None	8 8
	Don't know/Not sure	7 7
	Defused	9 9

# Section 2: Health Care Access

5.	prepaid plans such as HMOs, or government plans such as Medicare? (4)	40)
	a. Yes Go to Q. 7	1
	b. No	2
	Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 7	7
	Refused Go to Q. 7	9
6.	About how long has it been since you had health care coverage? (	41)
	Read Only if Necessary	
	a. Within the past 6 months (1 to 6 months ago)	1
	b. Within the past year (6 to 12 months ago)	2
	c. Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	3
	d. Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago)	4
	e. 5 or more years ago	5
	Don't know/Not sure	7
	Never	8
	Refused	9
7.	Was there a time during the last 12 months when you needed to see a doctor, but could not because of the cost?	(42)
	a. Yes	1
	b. No	2
	Don't know/Not sure	7
	Refused	9

3.	for a routine	checkup?	(43)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	1
	b.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	2
	c.	Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago)	3
	d.	5 or more years ago	4
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Never	8

# Section 3: Hypertension Awareness

9.		ng has it been since you last had your blood pressure ctor, nurse, or other health professional?	(44)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past 6 months (1 to 6 months ago)	1
	b.	Within the past year (6 to 12 months ago)	2
	c.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	3
	d.	Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago)	4
	e.	5 or more years ago	5
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Never Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)	8
		Refused	9
10.	-	r been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional high blood pressure?	(45)
10.	that you have		(45) 1
10.	that you have	high blood pressure?	1
10.	that you have	high blood pressure? Yes	1
10.	that you have	high blood pressure?         Yes	1 2
	that you have a. b.	high blood pressure?         Yes          No Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)          Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)          Refused Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)	1 2 7
	that you have a. b.	high blood pressure?  Yes  No Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)	1 2 7
	that you have a. b.  Have you bee was high, or h	high blood pressure?  Yes  No Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Refused Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  en told on more than one occasion that your blood pressure	1 2 7 9 (46)
	that you have a. b.  Have you bee was high, or h	high blood pressure?  Yes  No Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Refused Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  en told on more than one occasion that your blood pressure have you been told this only once?	1 2 7 9 (46)
	that you have a. b.  Have you bee was high, or have a.	high blood pressure?  Yes  No Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  Refused Go to Q. 12 (p. 8)  en told on more than one occasion that your blood pressure have you been told this only once?  More than once	1 2 7 9 (46) 1 2

# Section 4: Cholesterol Awareness

12.		od cholesterol checked?	(47)
	a.	Yes	1
	b.	No Go to Q. 15 (p. 9)	2
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 15 (p. 9)	7
		Refused Go to Q. 15 (p. 9)	9
13.	About how le	ong has it been since you last had your blood hecked?	(48)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	1
	b.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	2
	c.	Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago)	3
	d.	5 or more years ago	4
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Refused	9
14.		er been told by a doctor or other health professional od cholesterol is high?	(49)
	a.	Yes	1
	b.	No	2
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Refused	9

# Section 5: Diabetes

15. Have you	u eve	er been told by a doctor that you have diabetes?	(50)
If "yes" and female, ask	a.	Yes	1
"Was this only when you were	b.	Yes, but female told only during pregnancy	2
pregnant?"	c.	No	3
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Refused	9

### **Section 6: Injury Control**

Refused

(51)16. How often do you use seatbelts when you drive or ride in a car? Would you say: Please Read a. Always ..... b. Nearly Always ..... 2 Sometimes ..... 3 Seldom ..... 4 e. Never ..... 5 Don't know/Not sure ..... Do not read Never drive or ride in a car..... these responses. 17. What is the age of the oldest child in your household under the age of 16? (52-53) b. No children under age 16 Go to Q. 20 (p. 12) ..... 8 8 Go to Q. 20 (p. 12) ..... 7 7 Don't know/Not sure

99

18. How often does the [fill in age from O. 17] -year-old child in your household use a . . . car safety seat [for child under 5] seatbelt [for child 5 or older] ... when they ride in a car? (54)Please Read Would you say: a. Always ..... Sometimes ..... Seldom e. Never ..... Don't know/Not sure Do not read these Never rides in a car..... responses. If oldest child is 5 years or older, continue with Q. 19. Otherwise, go to Q. 20 (p. 12). 19. During the past year, how often has the [fill in age from Q. 17] -year-old child worn a bicycle helment when riding a bicycle? Please Read (55)Would you say: a. Always ..... b. Nearly always..... Sometimes ..... d. Seldom ..... Never ..... Do not read Never rides a bicycle ...... 8 these responses. 

20. When was the last time you or someone else deliberately tested all of the sm detectors in your home, either by pressing the test buttons or holding a source of smoke near them?	
Read Only if Necessary	

	3 3	
a.	Within the past month (0 to 1 month ago)	1
b.	Within the past 6 months (1 to 6 months ago)	2
c.	Within the past year (6 to 12 months ago)	3
d.	One or more years ago	4
e.	Never	5
f.	No smoke detectors in home	6
	Don't know/Not sure	7
	Defined	9

## Section 7: Tobacco Use

21.	Have you	ı sm	oked at least 100 cigarettes in your entire life?	(57)
100	5 packs =	a.	Yes	. 1
	cigarettes	b.	No Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	. 2
			Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	7
			Refused Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	. 9
22.	Do you s	mok	te cigarettes now?	(58)
		a.	Yes	1
		b.	No Go to Q. 26 (p. 14)	2
			Refused Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	9
23.	On how r	nan	y of the past 30 days did you smoke cigarettes? (5	9-60)
		a.	Number of days If less than 30, go to Q. 24a (p. 14)	
		b.	None Go to Q. 26 (p. 14)	8 8
			Don't know/Not sure	7 7
			Refused	9 9
24.	On the av	era;	ge, about how many cigarettes a day do you now smoke? (6	1-62)
	1 pack =		Number of cigarettes Go to Q. 25 (p. 14)	
20	cigarettes		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 25 (p. 14)	7 7
			Refused Go to O. 25 (p. 14)	9 9

	ttes did you smoke a day?	(63-64)
1 pack =	Number of cigarettes Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	
20 cigarettes	Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	7 7
	Refused Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	9 9
25. During the p	past 12 months, have you quit smoking for 1 day or longer?	(65)
a.	Yes Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	1
b.	No Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	2
	Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	7
	Refused Go to Q. 27 (p. 15)	9
26. About how l that is, daily	long has it been since you last smoked cigarettes regularly,?  Read Only if Necessary	(66-67)
	1 (0 to 1 month and)	. 0 1
а.		
b.	Within the past 6 months (3 to 6 months ago)	
d.		
e.	Within the past 5 years (1 to 5 years ago)	05
f.	Within the past 15 years (5 to 15 years ago)	06
g.	15 or more years ago	0 7
	Don't know/Not sure	77
	Never smoked regularly	88
	Refused	99

# Section 8: Alcohol Consumption

27. During the past month, have you had at least one drink of any alcoholic beverage such as beer, wine, wine coolers, or liquor?	(68)
a. Yes	. 1
b. No Go to Q. 32 (p. 17)	2
Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 32 (p. 17)	. 7
Refused Go to Q. 32 (p. 17)	. 9
28. During the past month, how many days per week or per month did you drink any alcoholic beverages, on the average?	69-71)
a. Days per week	
b. Days per month	
Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 30	7 7
Refused Go to Q. 30	9 9
29. A drink is 1 can or bottle of beer, 1 glass of wine, 1 can or bottle of wine cooler, 1 cocktail, or 1 shot of liquor. On the days when you drank, about how many drinks did you drink on the average?	72-73)
Number of drinks	·
Don't know/Not sure	7 7
Refused	9 9
30. Considering all types of alcoholic beverages, how many times during the past month did you have 5 or more drinks on an occasion? (7)	74–75)
a. Number of times	
b. None	8 8
Don't know/Not sure	7 7
Refused	9 9

31.	. During the past month, how many times have you driven when you've had perhaps too much to drink?			
	a.	Number of times		_
	b.	None	8	8
		Don't know/Not sure	7	7
		Refused	9	9

# Section 9: Demographics

32.	w nat is y	our/	age?	(78	8-79)
			Code age in years	_	
			Don't know/Not sure		0 7
			Refused		0 9
33.	What is y	our	race?		(80)
	Would yo	ou s	ay: Please Read		
		a.	White	. <b></b>	1
		b.	Black	· • •	2
		c.	Asian, Pacific Islander		3
		d.	American Indian, Alaska Native	· • •	4
		e.	Other: (specify)		5
D	o not read		Don't know/Not sure		7
re	these esponses.		Refused		9
34.	Are you o	of S	panish or Hispanic origin?		(81)
		a.	Yes		1
		b.	No		2
			Don't know/Not sure		7
			Refused		٥

35.	Are you:			(82)
			Please Read	
		a.	Married	1
		b. ,	Divorced	2
		c.	Widowed	3
		d.	Separated	4
		e.	Never been married	5
		f.	A member of an unmarried couple	6
			Refused	9
36.	How man	ıy cl	nildren live in your household who are	
			Please Read	
	Code 1–9 7 or more 8 = None = Refused	a.	Less than 5 years old?	(83
		b.	5 through 12 years old?	(84
9:		c.	13 through 17 years old?	(85
37.	What is t	he h	ighest grade or year of school you completed?	(86)
			Read Only if Necessary	
		a.	Never attended school or kindergarten only	1
		b.	Grades 1 through 8 (Elementary)	2
		c.	Grades 9 through 11 (Some high school)	3
		d.	Grade 12 or GED (High school graduate)	4
		e.	College 1 year to 3 years (Some college or technical school)	5
		f.	College 4 years or more (College graduate)	6
			Defused	9

38. Are you	cun	rently:	(87)
Please Read			
	a.	Employed for wages	1
	b.	Self-employed	2
	c.	Out of work for more than 1 year	3
	d.	Out of work for less than 1 year	4
	e.	Homemaker	5
	f.	Student	6
	g.	Retired	7
	h.	or Unable to work	8
		Refused	9
20. 7			
39. Is your a	nnu	al household income from all sources: (88	8–89)
		Please Read	
If respondent refuses at any income level,	a.	Less than \$25,000 If "no," ask e; if "yes" ask b (\$20,000 to less than \$25,000)	0 4
code refused	b.	Less than \$20,000 If "no," code a; if "yes" ask c (\$15,000 to less than \$20,000)	0 3
	c.	Less than \$15,000 If "no," code b; if "yes" ask d (\$10,000 to less than \$15,000)	0 2
	d.	Less than \$10,000 If "no," code c	0 1
	e.	Less than \$35,000 If "no," ask f (\$25,000 to less than \$35,000)	0 5
	f.	Less than \$50,000 If "no," ask g (\$35,000 to less than \$50,000)	0 6
	g.	Less than \$75,000 If "no," code h (\$50,000 to less than \$75,000)	0 7
	h.	\$75,000 or more	0 8
Do not read these		Don't know/Not sure	7 7
responses.		Refused	9 9

40.	About how r	nuch do you weigh without shoes?	(90–92)	
	Round fractions up	Weight	pounds	
	·	Don't know/Not sure	7 7 7	
		Refused	9 9 9	
41.	About how to	all are you without shoes?	(93-95)	
	Round fractions down	Height	ft / inches	
	1	Don't know/Not sure	7 7 7	
		Refused	9 9 9	
42.	What county	do you live in?	(96-98)	
		FIPS county code		
		Don't know/Not sure	7 7 7	
		Refused	9 9 9	
43.	Do you have	more than one telephone number in your household?	(99)	
	a.	Yes	1	
	b.	No Go to Q. 45	2	
		Refused Go to Q. 45	9	
44.	How many re	esidential telephone numbers do you have?	(100)	
		Total telephone numbers [8 = 8 or more]		
		Refused	9	
Now I have some questions about other health services you may have received.				
45.	Indicate sex	of respondent.	(101)	
		Ask Only if Necessary		
		Male Go to Q. 58 (p. 25)	1	
		Female	2	

## Section 10: Women's Health

46.	A mammogram is an x-ray of each breast to look for breast cancer.  Have you ever had a mammogram? (10)	2)
	a. Yes	1
	b. No Go to Q. 50 (p. 22)	2
	Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 50 (p. 22)	7
	Refused Go to Q. 50 (p. 22)	9
47.	How long has it been since you had your last mammogram? (10	3)
	Read Only if Necessary	
	a. Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	1
	b. Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	2
	c. Within the past 3 years (2 to 3 years ago)	3
	d. Within the past 5 years (3 to 5 years ago)	4
	e. 5 or more years ago Go to Q. 49 (p. 22)	5
	Don't know/Not sure	7
	Refused	9
48.	About how many mammograms have you had in the last five years? (104-10	15)
	Number of mammograms	
	None	8
	Don't know/Not sure	7
	Refused 9	9

<del>4</del> ⊅.	-	problem other than cancer, or because you've already had er?	106)
	a.	Routine checkup	1
	b.	Breast problem other than cancer	2
	c.	Had breast cancer	3
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Refused	9
50.		reast exam is when a doctor, nurse, or other health professional ast for lumps. Have you ever had a clinical breast exam?	107)
	a.	Yes	1
	b.	No Go to Q. 53 (p. 23)	2
	•	Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 53 (p. 23)	7
		Refused Go to Q. 53 (p. 23)	9
51.	How long ha	as it been since your last breast exam?	108)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	1
	b.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	2
	c.	Within the past 3 years (2 to 3 years ago)	3
	d.	Within the past 5 years (3 to 5 years ago)	4
	e.	5 or more years ago	5
		Don't know/Not sure	7
		Refused	9

32.	-	roblem other than cancer, or because you've already had	(109)
	a.	Routine Checkup	. 1
	b.	Breast problem other than cancer	. 2
	c.	Had breast cancer	. 3
		Don't know/Not sure	. 7
		Refused	. 9
53.	A Pap smear a Pap smear?	is a test for cancer of the cervix. Have you ever had	(110)
	a.	Yes	. 1
	b.	No Go to Q. 56 (p. 24)	. 2
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 56 (p. 24)	. 7
		Refused Go to Go to Q. 56 (p. 24)	. 9
54.	How long ha	s it been since you had your last Pap smear?	(111)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	. 1
	b.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	. 2
	c.	Within the past 3 years (2 to 3 years ago)	. 3
	d.	Within the past 5 years (3 to 5 years ago)	. 4
	e.	5 or more years ago	. 5
		Don't know/Not sure	. 7
		Refused	. 9

•	est Pap smear done as part of a routine exam, or to check previous problem?	(1	12)
a	. Routine exam		1
b	. Check current or previous problem		2
	Other		3
	Don't know/Not sure		7
	Refused		9
56. Have you h	ad a hysterectomy?	(1	13)
A hysterectomy is an operation to	Yes Go to Q. 58 (p. 25)		1
remove the	. No		2
	Don't know/Not sure		7
	Refused		9
	☐ If respondent 45 years old or older, go to Q. 58 (p. 25).		
57. To your kno	owledge, are you now pregnant?	(1	14)
a.	Yes		1
b	. No	• •	2
•	Don't know/Not sure		7
	Refused		9

## Section 11: Immunization

58.	During the p	ast 12 months, have you had a flu shot?	(115	))
	a.	Yes		1
	b.	No	:	2
		Don't know/Not sure		7
		Refused	!	9
59.	Have you eve	er had a pneumonia vaccination?	(116	5)
	a.	Yes	• •	1
	b.	No		2
		Don't know/Not sure	'	7
		Refused	9	9
	Ţ	If respondent 40 years old or older, continue with Q. 60. Otherwise, go to Section 13: HIV/AIDS (p. 28).		

# Section 12: Colorectal Cancer Screening

60.	inserts a fing	tal exam is when a doctor or other health professional er in the rectum to check for cancer and other health ave you ever had this exam?	(117)
	a.	Yes	. 1
	b.	No Go to Q. 62	. 2
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 62	. 7
		Refused Go to Q. 62	. 9
61.	When did yo	u have your last digital rectal exam?	(118)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	. 1
	b.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	. 2
	c.	Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago)	. 3
	d.	5 or more years ago	. 4
		Don't know/Not sure	. 7
		Refused	. 9
62.	A proctoscop	oic exam is when a tube is inserted in the rectum to check and other health problems. Have you ever had this exam?	(119)
	a.	Yes	. 1
	b.	No Go to Section 13: HIV/AIDS (p. 28)	. 2
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Section 13: HIV/AIDS (p. 28).	. 7
		Refused Go to Section 13: HIV/AIDS (p. 28)	. 9

63.	When did yo	ou have your last proctoscopic exam?	(120)
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	Within the past year (1 to 12 months ago)	. 1
	b.	Within the past 2 years (1 to 2 years ago)	. 2
	c.	Within the past 5 years (2 to 5 years ago)	. 3
	d.	5 or more years ago	. 4
		Don't know/Not sure	. 7
		Refused	. 9

## Section 13: AIDS Knowledge and Testing

If respondent is 65 years old or older, go to Closing Statement.

The next few questions are about the national health problem of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Please remember that your answers are strictly confidential and that you don't have to answer every question if you don't want to.

64. If you had a begin receiving	child in school, at what grade do you think he or she should ing education in school about HIV infection and AIDS?	[121-1	122)
Code 01   a. through 12	Grade		
b.	Kindergarten	5	5
c.	Never	. 8	8
	Don't know/Not sure	. 7	7
	Refused	. 9	9
•	teenager who was sexually active, would you encourage use a condom?	(	123)
a.	Yes		1
b.	No		2
	Would give other advice		3
	Don't know/Not sure		7
			0

66.	What are causes A	your chances of getting infected with HIV, the virus that IDS?	(124)	
Would you say: Please Read				
		a. High	. 1	
		b. Medium	. 2	
		c. Low	. 3	
		<b>or</b> d. None	. 4	
_		Not applicable Go to Q. 68 (p. 30)	. 5	
	Do not read these responses.	Don't know/Not sure	. 7	
		Refused	. 9	
67.	Have you	ever had your blood tested for HIV?	(125)	
		a. Yes Go to Q. 68 (p. 30)	. 1	
		b. No	. 2	
		Don't know/Not sure	. 7	
		Refused	. 9	
68a	. Have you	donated blood since March 1985?	(126)	
		a. Yes	. 1	
		b. No Go to Q. 73 (p. 32)	. 2	
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 73 (p. 32)	. 7	
		Refused Go to Q. 73 (p. 32)	. 9	
69a	. When did	d you last donate blood? (12	7-130)	
		Code month and year Go to Q. 73 (p. 32)		
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 73 (p. 32)	777	
		Refused Go to Q. 73 (p. 32)	99	

68.	When was y	our last blood test for HIV?	31-134)
	•	Code month and year	_/
		Don't know/Not sure 7	7 7 7
		Refused	999
69.	What was th	e main reason you had your last blood test for HIV? (1)	35-136)
		Reason code	
		Read Only if Necessary	
	a.	For hospitalization or surgical procedure	. 01
	b.	To apply for health insurance	. 02
	c.	To apply for life insurance	. 03
	d.	For employment	. 04
	e.	To apply for a marriage license	. 05
	f.	For military induction or military service	. 06
	g.	For immigration	. 07
	h.	Just to find out if you were infected	. 08
	i.	Because of referral by a doctor	. 09
	j.	Because of pregnancy	. 10
	k.	Referred by your sex partner	. 11
	1.	Because it was part of a blood donation process	. 12
	m	. For routine checkup	. 13
	n.	Because of occupational exposure	. 14
	0.	Because of illness	. 15
	p.	Other	. 87
		Don't know/Not sure	. 77
		Refused	. 99

70.	Where did y	ou have your last blood test for HIV?	(137-	-138
		Facility Code		
		Read Only if Necessary		
	a.	Private doctor, HMO		01
	b.	Blood bank, plasma center, Red Cross		02
	c.	Health department		03
	d.	AIDS clinic, counseling, testing site		04
	e.	Hospital, emergency room, outpatient clinic		05
	f.	Family planning clinic		06
	g.	Prenatal clinic	• • •	07
	h.	Tuberculosis clinic	• • •	08
	i.	STD clinic	• • •	09
	j.	Community health clinic		10
	k.	Clinic run by employer		11
	1.	Insurance company clinic		12
	m.	Other public clinic	• • •	13
	n.	Drug treatment facility		14
	0.	Military induction or military service site		15
	p.	Immigration site	• • •	16
	q.	At home, home visit by nurse or health worker	• • •	17
	r.	At home, using self-testing kit	• • •	18
	s.	Other		87
		Don't know/Not sure		77
		Refused		99

71.	Did you reco	eive the results of your last test?	(1	39)
	a.	Yes	• •	1
	b.	No Go to Q. 73		2
		Don't know/Not sure Go to Q. 73		7
		Refused Go to Q. 73		9
72.	Did you rece the results o	eive counseling or talk with a health care professional about f your test?	(1	40)
	a.	Yes		1
	b.	No		2
		Don't know/Not sure	. <b>.</b>	7
		Refused	. <b>.</b>	9
73.		e use condoms to keep from getting infected with HIV through ity. How effective do you think a properly used condom is ose?	(1	41)
	Would you s	say: Please Read		
	a.	Very effective	. <b>.</b>	1
	b.	Somewhat effective		2
	c.	Not at all effective		3
		Don't know how effective		4
	Do not read these responses.	Don't know method		5
	}	Refused		9

74. Due to what you know about HIV, have you changed your sexual behavior 'in the last 12 months?					
a. Yes	1				
b. No Go to Closing Statement	2				
Don't know/Not sure Go to Closing Statement	7				
Refused Go to Closing Statement	9				

#### 75. Have you:

	Please Read	Yes	No	Dk/Ns	Ref	
a.	Had sexual intercourse with only one partner?	1	2	7	9	(143)
b.	Used condoms for protection?	1	2	7	9	(144)
c.	Been more careful in selecting sexual partners?	1	2	7	9	(145)

### **Closing Statement**

That's my last question. Everyone's answers will be combined to give us information about the health practices of people in this state. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

#### or

## Transition to Modules or State-added Questions, or both

Finally, I have just a few questions left about some other health topics.

#### APPENDIX C

Demographic Information on USAF Total Population, Survey Sample, and Survey Respondents

Table 1. Demographic breakdown of entire ADAF population (as of July 1995)

		Males			Females		
MAJCOM	E1-E4	E5-E9	01-010	E1-E4	E5-E9	01-010	Total
ACC	38645	41813	13499	8780	5083	1996	109816
AETC	22431	17870	11541	7289	2727	2609	64467
AFMC	9168	11886	9260	2612	1782	1730	36438
AF SPAC	7974	8207	4121	1679	851	620	23452
AFSOC	3016	3944	1329	488	327	78	9202
AMC	18542	19921	7597	4406	2597	1680	54743
PACAF	11724	14064	3431	2623	1767	735	34344
USAFE	9709	11989	2800	2124	1714	665	29001
Total	121209	129694	53578	30001	16868	10113	361463

Table 2. Demographic breakdown of sample

		Males			Females		
<b>MAJCOM</b>	E1-E4	E5-E9	01-010	E1-E4	E5-E9	01-010	Total
ACC	141	102	86	149	166	90	734
AETC	91	110	75	91	66	106	539
AFMC	92	129	92	36	41	75	465
AF SPAC	142	153	71	23	15	22	426
AFSOC	145	187	53	14	11	. 3	413
AMC	111	136	61	65	67	69	509
PACAF	127	158	36	36	40	26	423
USAFE	127	165	32	33	41	23	421
Total	976	1140	506	447	447	414	3930

Table 3. Final numbers of completed interviews

		Males			Females		
MAJCOM	E1-E4	E5-E9	01-010	E1-E4	E5-E9	01-010	Total
ACC	73	48	43	85	87	47	383
AETC	56	55	37	58	39	51	296
AFMC	48	49	43	15	24	31	210
AF SPAC	80	75	32	11	9	13	220
AFSOC	77	97	30	7	7	1	219
AMC	50	65	20	30	35	28	228
PACAF	79	86	18	18	23	10	234
USAFE	40	56	13	11	13	8	141
Total	503	531	236	235	237	189	1931

### APPENDIX D

**Abbreviations Used in Report** 

### APPENDIX D

## Abbreviations Used in Report

Abbreviation	Definition				
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention				
BRFSS	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System				
MAJCOM	Major Command				
HQ AFMPC	Headquarters, Air Force Military Personnel Center				
TDY	Temporary Duty				
CONUS	Continental United States				
USAF	United States Air Force				
ADAF	Active Duty Air Force				
ACC	Air Combat Command				
AFMC	Air Force Materiel Command				
AMC	Air Mobility Command				
AF SPACECOM	Air Force Space Command				
AFSOC	Air Force Special Operations Command				
PACAF	Pacific Air Forces				
USAFE	United States Air Forces in Europe				
AETC	Air Education and Training Command				